

THE CURIOUS

Weekly Journal of Literature, Art, Science, and the Drama.

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OCTOBER 29, 1859.

Price 4d.; stamped 5d.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.
September 1, 1859.—The Session will be publicly OPENED on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, at TWO o'clock p.m., when an Address to the Students will be delivered by the Principal. The Classes for the different branches of study will be opened as follows:

I. LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY.		
Classes.	Days and Hours of Attendance.	Professors.
Junior Humanity	Nov. 2, at 12 and 2	Mr. Pillans.
Senior Humanity	Nov. 2, at 9 (sh. 45m.)	
First Greek	Nov. 2, at 10 and 11	Mr. Blackie.
Second Greek	Nov. 2, at 11	
Third Greek	Nov. 2, at 2	
First Mathematical	Nov. 2, at 12	Mr. Kelland.
Second Mathematical	Nov. 2, at 10	
Third Mathematical	Nov. 14, at 9	
Logic and Metaphysics	Nov. 2, at 1	Mr. Fraser.
Moral Philosophy	Nov. 2, at 12	Mr. M'Dougall.
Natural Philosophy	Nov. 2, at 11	Mr. Forbes.
Rhetoric and Belles Lettres	Nov. 2, at 4	Mr. Aytoun.
(English Language and Literature)		
Practical Astronomy	Dec. 6, at 12	Mr. Smyth.
Agriculture	Nov. 10, at 9	Mr. J. Wilson.
Universal History	Nov. 9, at 2	Mr. Jones.
Theory of Music	Nov. 2, at 10 and 12	Mr. Donaldson.
Technology	Nov. 2, at 12	Dr. G. Wilson.
Hebrew		
II. THEOLOGY.		
Junior Class	Nov. 10, at 10	Rev. G. Liston.
Advanced Class—Hebrew and Arabic	Nov. 10, at 9	
Divinity	Nov. 10, at 11	Dr. Crawford.
Divinity and Church History	Nov. 10, at 12	Dr. Robertson.
Biblical Criticism and Biblical Antiquities	Nov. 10, at 1	Dr. R. Lee.
III. LAW.		
Medical Jurisprudence (for Students of Law)	Dec. 1, at 2	Dr. Traill.
Civil Law	Nov. 14, at 3	Mr. Swinton.
Law of Scotland	Nov. 14, at 3	Mr. More.
Conveyancing	Nov. 14, at 4	Mr. M. Bell.
IV. MEDICINE.		
Dietetics, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy	Nov. 2, at 9	Dr. Christison.
Chemistry	Nov. 2, at 10	Dr. L. Playfair.
Surgery	Nov. 2, at 10	Mr. Miller.
Institutes of Medicine	Nov. 2, at 11	Dr. Bennett.
Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children	Nov. 2, at 11	Dr. Simpson.
Clinical Surgery (Mon. and Thurs.)	Nov. 3, at 12	Mr. Syme.
Clinical Medicine (Tues. and Frid.)	Nov. 4, at 12 to 2	(Mrs. Bennett and Laycock.)
Anatomy	Nov. 2, at 2	Mr. Goodier.
General Pathology	Nov. 2, at 4	Dr. Henderson.
Natural History	Nov. 2, at 1	Dr. Allan.
Practice of Physic	Nov. 2, at 3	Dr. Laycock.
Royal Infirmary, at noon, daily.		

Practical Anatomy, under the superintendence of Professor Goodsir.

Practical Chemistry, under the superintendence of Dr. Lyon Playfair.

Analytical Chemistry, under the superintendence of Dr. Lyon Playfair.

N.B. Information relative to the curricula of study for degrees, examinations, &c. may be obtained on application to the Secretary, at the College.

A table of fees may be seen in the matriculation office, and in the reading room of the library.

By Authority of the Patrons of the University.
ALEX. SMITH, Sec. to the University.

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That Mr. Berkeley will be cordially received by our brethren across the Atlantic, we have already ample assurance. As a distinguished member of a great and ancient English family—as the chosen embodiment and representative of English sport and sportsmen—and as a friend and constant contributor to THE FIELD, the journal of English sports and pastimes—Mr. Berkeley in the United States will, we know, be heartily welcomed and fully appreciated.

The announcement of this visit and its purpose has been communicated to the people of the United States in the following note addressed to their leading public journals:

Beacon Lodge, Christchurch, July 30, 1859.
SIR,—Permit me, through the medium of your paper, to address a few words to my brother sportsmen in the United States. An opportunity which I have often longed for has been afforded me of paying a visit to New York, starting from Liverpool, for the express purpose of fraternising with the disciples of St. Hubert, shaking hands with my Transatlantic brethren, and, with the advice of my brother sportsmen, proceeding through a portion of the cultivated country to the magnificent prairies, gathering by the way all information—scientific, agricultural, and ornithological—that it is possible for me to collect. My stay in the United States must of necessity be limited, but, under the blessing of Heaven, I hope, ere my return to spend my Christmas in England, to have achieved and learnt enough to enable me to tell my countrymen a tale, and to point out to them the route and the outlay required, for others, in future times, to follow my example. (My narrative, I need hardly add, will appear in the columns of the *London Field*.) I shall bring with me some of my hounds and dogs, the faithful companions of my leisure hours, and throw myself on that kindness which, from my experience of the American character in other climes, I am convinced was never by a stranger sought in vain. I expect to arrive at New York on or about the 3rd of September.

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CRITIC Office, 19, Wellington-street North, Strand, W.C.

THE CRITIC.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

IT IS DECIDED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT that the University of Edinburgh shall have a Chancellor; it is not yet decided by the graduates of the University who that Chancellor shall be. It is well known, however, that the choice of candidates is at present restricted to two noblemen whose respective qualifications are so ludicrously disproportionate, that one may well feel surprised that the slightest hesitation can be felt by any individual voter in making his selection. That there is here no choice of Hercules, no evenly-balanced weighing of doubtful merits, will, we think, be apparent to the vast majority of our readers when we inform them that the respective candidates for the honours of the Chancellorship are Lord BROUGHAM and the Duke of Buccleuch. Comparisons are odious, but in this case they are invited. On the one side, then, we have perhaps the foremost man in England, a Scotchman, a member of Edinburgh University, and one who was famous before his dual opponent was born. On the other side is a Duke with perhaps the broadest acres in Scotland—a Scotchman too, we suppose—and an undistinguished member of the University of Cambridge. One would imagine it a not very difficult task to decide between the claims of two such candidates—between world-famous genius and amiable mediocrity; and we will not for a moment believe that the University in question will be so wanting to itself and to Scotland as to elect a dual nonentity, however much his amiable personal qualities be enhanced by the possession of almost countless wealth. As Englishmen, indeed, we shall find some consolation in the election of the Duke of Buccleuch to the Chancellorship of Edinburgh University. If the graduates of that University do not make fools of themselves, it appears extremely probable that they will afford the members of one of our two English Universities an opportunity of doing so. It is rumoured at Cambridge that whenever the High-Stewardship shall be vacant—and that its present aged possessor may long live to hold it we heartily pray—there will be a contest for the office between Lord MACAULAY and that ubiquitous seeker of honorary University distinctions, the Duke of Buccleuch. The Duke, if elected to the Edinburgh Chancellorship, will hardly step down to a minor office in the University of Cambridge; and thus the canny Scotchmen—for once uncanny—will deprive their Southron brothers of a very fair chance of making excellent mummies of themselves by preferring an unlettered Duke to the most distinguished Cambridge graduate living.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY was reopened to the public on Monday, when three of the NORTHWICK pictures were exhibited on the walls, namely, the Girolamo da Treviso, the Moretto da Brescia, and the Masaccio; also, the large Romanino, mentioned by us as having been recently purchased, but from what quarter we do not know. The Giulio Romano, "The Birth of Jupiter," is not yet hung, being either in the cleaner's hands or waiting to be fitted with a frame. The three NORTHWICK pictures that are hung look remarkably well in their new quarters. Each is excellent in its kind, and well worth the price paid for it, especially the Girolamo da Treviso, a noble altar-piece, representing the Virgin and Infant Saviour enthroned and surrounded by several saints, one of whom introduces the donor, who is in a kneeling attitude. A quire of angels is seen above under a canopy. This fine picture, which requires only to be seen that it may be admired, was painted for presentation to the church of St. Dominick at Bologna, and is mentioned by VASARI, in his "Lives of the Painters," as the best work of the artist. It was purchased by the late Lord NORTHWICK, at the particular recommendation of the late Mr. LAKE, a solicitor in good practice, who had himself a fine collection of works of art, and whose judgment was much to be relied upon. The Moretto, "Glorification of the Virgin," is also an altar-piece, in the foreground of which is represented St. Bernardino of Sienna, holding in his right hand a golden circlet inclosing the sacred monogram "I. H. S.," and in his left an open book; having three mitres, which he is said to have declined, at his feet. On his right hand are the figures of St. Jerome and St. Joseph, and on his left those of St. Francis and St. Nicholas. The Virgin and Child are in the clouds, attended on the right by St. Catherine, and on the left by St. Clara. Altogether, a very fine picture, both for composition and colour—the figures of the Saints in the foreground being admirably drawn. This picture originally formed the altar-piece of the Church of SS. Faustino and Giovito, at Brescia. More recently it was in the collection of Dr. FACCIOLI, of Verona, from which it passed into the NORTHWICK Gallery. The Masaccio is a portrait of the artist by himself, wonderfully life-like, and worthy to take rank in this respect with the Bellinis that are so much admired in our national collection. There is a fine engraving by THOMAS PATCH of a portrait of Masaccio, done in 1770, which we should not be surprised to learn was taken from this identical picture. The Romanino is a picture in five compartments, the central one of which represents a "Nativity," the others being occupied by saints. It is of an immense size, and has nothing particular to recommend it, if we except its rich colouring. The four saints might be very well dispensed with, and the picture would then be reduced to reasonable dimensions; as it is, we grudge the large space that it occupies on the walls. Having thus gone through the

list of accessions to our National Gallery, we have only again to repeat our deep regret that Sir CHARLES EASTLAKE did not expend more of the ample funds at his command in securing a larger amount of the *chef-d'œuvres* in the NORTHWICK Gallery. Besides the 10,000*l.* voted in the last session of Parliament, there were surplus funds, we are told, from former grants still remaining in his hands: what will he do with them? His journey to Spain has, we understand, proved a *coup manqué* altogether. The Velasquez he went in quest of is one of the pictures in the MADRAZO collection at Madrid, the owner of which refuses to part with any single picture from his gallery, it being his object to dispose of the entire collection for a sum far exceeding anything that he is likely to get for it. So here is Sir CHARLES EASTLAKE, with his "guide, philosopher, and friend," Mr. OTTO MÜNDLER, completely at sea, drifting nobody knows whither. Parliament entrusts him with 10,000*l.* to lay out upon the NORTHWICK pictures, which in the plenitude of his wisdom he neglects to do, stating of one picture that it has been painted over, and of another that he knows where a better can be found, with such-like excuses, and off he scampers to Spain upon a wildgoose chase after a Velasquez, the owner of which any one might have told him here would never consent to part with it upon his terms. We trust that in his extremity, the extremity of a man over-burdened with money that he is obliged to spend, he will not return to us with a cargo of inferior pictures, barely to save him from the reproach of having taken his journey all for nothing. It will be far better for him to own that he has made a mistake altogether; and if he wants Spanish pictures, let him look about in our own country, and see whether some of our own picture-dealers cannot supply his needs. He scarcely requires us to inform him that at the present moment there are some of the finest portraits ever painted by Velasquez in the hands of some of our picture-dealers, which they would willingly dispose of at a figure quite as low as would be asked for them at Madrid or any other city in Spain. But we fear it is with Sir CHARLES EASTLAKE as with so many others, that he holds *omne ignotum pro magnifico*—a maxim that we would counsel him to banish from his mind as speedily as possible. And lest he should find the problem how to spend his money too difficult for solution, let us take the liberty of pointing out to him a quarter in which at least a small portion of it may be creditably and profitably laid out. There is "The Marriage of Strongbow," by DANIEL MACLISE—not only the finest picture which that artist ever produced, but really and truly, for the qualities it pretends to, one of the very finest pictures in the country. That picture, which was sold at the NORTHWICK sale for something under 2000*l.*, and is now in the possession of Mr. COX, of Berners-street, ought never to have slipped through Sir CHARLES EASTLAKE's fingers. Besides its inherent merits, "The Marriage of Strongbow" has a claim upon the national purse, and its history offers a rather curious and instructive lesson as to the value of national patronage in this country. The picture was actually ordered of Mr. MACLISE for the ornamentation of the Legislative Palace at Westminster. Afterwards came the "fad" of having nothing but frescoes there, and when this fine picture had cost Mr. MACLISE nearly seven years' labour he was coolly informed that the Government "could not think of giving more than a thousand pounds for a modern picture." In this dilemma Lord NORTHWICK stepped forward, and, like a nobleman and gentleman as he was, not only bought the picture at the price asked, namely, two thousand pounds, but, finding that there was no sufficient accommodation for so vast a canvas at Thirlstane House, actually built a gallery to contain it. When all this was comfortably settled and the picture in its place, a strange phenomenon occurred. Certain persons in authority, having seen the picture, were unwilling that the Westminster Palace should lose the benefit of it, however unwilling they might be to spend two thousand pounds upon a man who had no friends in power to push his claim; whereupon a cool request was preferred to Lord NORTHWICK, requesting him to lend the picture to the nation, in order that Mr. MACLISE might paint a fresco from it. Who can be surprised that his Lordship's reply was couched in terms of courteous but indignant refusal? "No," said he; "you ought to have bought the picture at first—it was your duty to do so; and now that I have bought and paid for it for my own enjoyment, you want to deprive me of it. I am now an old man, and can expect to live but a few years, and I will not be deprived of this picture under such circumstances." Who shall say that his Lordship was in the wrong?

MR. WEALE, the scientific and mechanical publisher, has lately printed for private circulation a document which is likely to be of very great service to all who are engaged in any of the branches of applied mechanics. This consists of "Statistical Notices of Publications on the Constructive Arts," and is intended by its compiler as a practical "answer to statements which have been put forth by Englishmen as well as foreigners, that we in England lack enterprise in issuing and incurring the expense of those works essentially useful to an industrial and wealthy community." It is neither more nor less than a list of all the publications which have been published by Mr. WEALE since he has been in business, with an estimate of the cost of producing each work, either real or approximate. The facts to be derived from this list are really very extraordinary, and display a fecundity of authorship in such dry subjects and an amount of enterprise in publishing perfectly astonishing. Within a period of about thirty-six years this single publisher has issued more than four hundred separate works; besides several large series of

works, such as "John Weale's Educational Series," "John Weale's Rudimentary Series," "John Weale's Series of Greek and Latin Classics," containing two hundred and twenty separate volumes between them. We have not had the courage to add up the sums set down as the cost of producing these works, but the total must be something enormous. The three series of educational books named above cost, the first 14,000*l.*, the second 43,500*l.*, and the third 3500*l.*; whilst against twenty-five items selected out of the list sums are set down amounting altogether to 67,185*l.* Thus we find that upon twenty-eight literary enterprises, every one of which depended upon the patronage of a very exclusive class, no less a sum than 128,185*l.* have been expended—a striking proof both of the interest felt in scientific subjects throughout this country, and of the spirit with which scientific enterprises are carried out. We hope that Mr. WEALE's example will be followed by more than one of his brethren. Information of this sort cannot but be of the greatest interest, not only to scientific men, but to bibliographers.

ON MONDAY EVENING, the 24th inst, being the anniversary of the birthday of KING EDWARD VI., the annual dinner in honour of that event was given at the London Tavern, at which the large number of a hundred and twenty-five "old Blues" attended. It had been announced that the chair was to be taken by PETER CUNNINGHAM, Esq., F.S.A.; but, for some unexplained reason, that gentleman did not make his appearance, and the Committee found a willing and excellent substitute in J. JONES, Esq., Mayor of Windsor. As Mr. CUNNINGHAM, in his column of gossip in the *Illustrated London News*, had only last Saturday confessed to being "fresh from the funeral of Mr. STEPHENSON," his absence was the subject of more comment than surprise. The proceedings of the evening were conducted with all that friendliness and harmony which

invariably characterise the gathering of old schoolfellows. Nor can these occasions be too highly valued. Old friendships, broken by chance or design, or haply worn out by time, are renewed; new ones are made; school memories are revived; and men whose paths of life have long since been separate—albeit tending uphill in most instances among those who were assembled on Monday night—find themselves for once in convivial and joyous proximity. An added satisfaction was also felt upon this occasion from the judicious absence of any allusion to certain topics which have of late years been productive of dissension in the school, and we are inclined to take the post-prandial speeches at the London Tavern for a proof that the "Old Grey Friars" will no longer be a house divided against itself. As the *Times* has not chosen this year to revive the moot point of whether Smithfield stench or country breezes furnish a more salubrious atmosphere for growing children, no reference was made to that point. What with these causes, and the admirable arrangements of the Rev. JOSEPH HARRIS, the enterprising honorary secretary, who makes the organisation of this festivity a yearly labour of love, this was the most successful Founder's Dinner which has been held for some time past.

Before quitting the subject, it may be mentioned that the chairman appointed for next year is Mr. ROBERTS, of the eminent publishing firm of LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, and ROBERTS.

WE ARE REQUESTED on behalf of the "Inventor's Assistance Company, Limited," to which reference was made in our last impression, to state, in explanation of a portion of our remarks, that the Company is already in full working trim, and that extensive workshops for testing the utility of inventions by practical experiments are now open for the reception and manufacture of all models submitted for consideration.

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

EPIDEMICS OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

The Epidemics of the Middle Ages. From the German of J. F. C. HECKER, M.D., Professor at the Frederick William's University at Berlin, &c. Translated by B. G. BABINGTON, M.D., F.R.S., &c. Third Edition, completed by the author's Treatise on Child-Pilgrimages. London: Trübner and Co. 1859. pp. 360.

BEFORE WE ATTEMPT TO GIVE OUR READERS some idea of the contents of this volume, we will briefly allude to the circumstances which have led to its publication. It was originally one of the series of books published by the Sydenham Society, and as such was of course issued to its members only. Having been for some time out of print, a third edition of it has been sent forth for the use of the general reader; to which has been added a translation of Dr. Hecker's paper on "Child-Pilgrimages," now for the first time published in English. The volume before us may be considered as consisting of four distinct portions, as it gives a lengthy account of "The Black Death," "The Dancing Mania," "The Sweating Sickness," and the newly-translated paper which we noticed above. We shall first of all glance at Dr. Hecker's description of the "Dancing Mania," and then, if our limits allow us, briefly notice the paper on "Child-Pilgrimages."

Scarcely had the effects of "The Black Death" or plague subsided, from which Europe is supposed to have lost not less than 25,000,000 of her inhabitants, when a strange delusion arose in Germany, and, to use Dr. Hecker's words, "in spite of the divinity of our nature, hurried men away body and soul into the magic circle of hellish superstition." This convulsion, called the Dance of St. John or St. Vitus, attacked the sufferer in an extraordinary manner; and, after afflicting Germany, or rather Europe, for nearly two centuries, vanished as mysteriously as it came, and has, happily, never since reappeared.

It was in the streets and churches of the good city of Aix-la-Chapelle, as early as the year 1374, that certain assemblages of men and women were first affected by this strange delusion. They formed themselves into circles, and, hand in hand, danced for hours in a wild delirium, until at length they fell exhausted to the ground. After recovery they almost invariably complained of extreme oppression, and only found relief from being tightly swathed in cloths round their waists. As these cloths were not always at hand, the by-standers occasionally improvised a less artificial remedy for the sufferers by thumping and trampling on the parts affected. While dancing they were insensible to all external impressions, and saw sights and visions which occasionally remind us not a little of the experiences of some of our modern revivalists. At first the dancers do not appear to have excited very much attention: they danced away with garlands in their hair, and cloths round their waists, which were twisted tight by means of a stick. Many persons, perhaps not injudiciously, thought that these sticks might be better employed upon the bodies of these Bacchantes; and, strange to say, they themselves professed to find much relief from the cuffs, blows, and kicks which the sympathising by-standers appear to have administered with an almost touching zeal. Wherever these dancers appeared, there too were seen crowds of persons in attendance, who had forsaken their occupations to gaze

upon these sufferers, and, if necessary, administer the remedy of the stick and boot. Yet these dancers were somewhat fastidious as to what kind of shoes they were kicked with; "they took," Dr. Hecker says, "a morbid dislike to the pointed shoes which had come into fashion immediately after the Great Mortality in 1350." For our part, we could almost imagine there was some method in their madness; as every one who knows anything about ancient shoes will readily believe that a kick from a shoe with a pointed toe was by no means so endurable as if the same shoe had been square-toed. Be this as it may, these fanatics became so numerous, and intimidated the people to such a degree, that a solemn ordinance was promulgated that no one should presume to make any but square-toed shoes. It began now to be generally believed that these persons were under direct demoniacal influence, and the priests had recourse to various kinds of exorcism to allay the spreading evil.

A few months after this dancing malady had made its appearance at Aix-la-Chapelle, it broke out at Cologne, where the number of those possessed amounted to more than five hundred, and about the same time at Metz, the streets of which place are said to have been filled with eleven hundred dancers. Peasants left their ploughs, mechanics their workshops, housewives their domestic duties, to join the wild revels, and this rich commercial city became the scene of the most ruinous disorder. Secret desires were excited, and but too often found opportunities for wild enjoyment; and numerous beggars, stimulated by vice and misery, availed themselves of this new complaint to gain a temporary livelihood. Girls and boys quitted their parents, and servants their masters, to amuse themselves at the dances of those possessed, and greedily imbibed the poison of mental infection. Above a hundred unmarried women were seen raving about in consecrated and unconsecrated places, and the consequences were soon perceived! Gangs of idle vagabonds, who understood how to imitate to the life the gestures and convulsions of those really affected, roved from place to place seeking maintenance and adventures, and thus, wherever they went spreading this disgusting spasmodic disease like a plague; for in maladies of this kind the susceptible are infected as easily by the appearance as by the reality. At last it was found necessary to drive away these mischievous guests, who were equally inaccessible to the exorcisms of the priests and the remedies of the physicians. It was not, however, until after four months that the Rhenish cities were able to suppress these impostures, which had so alarmingly increased the original evil. In the mean time, when once called into existence, the plague crept on, and found abundant food in the tone of thought which prevailed in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and even, though in a minor degree, throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth, causing a permanent disorder of the mind, and exhibiting, in those cities to whose inhabitants it was a novelty, scenes as strange as they were detestable.

For one kind of St. Vitus's dance which, we are told, affected women far more frequently than men,

Paracelsus recommended harsh treatment and strict fasting. He directed that the patients should be deprived of their liberty, placed in solitary confinement, and made to sit in an uncomfortable place, until their misery brought them to their senses and to a feeling of penitence. He then permitted them gradually to return to their accustomed habits. Severe corporal chastisement was not omitted; but, on the other hand, angry resistance on the part of the patient was to be sedulously avoided, on the ground that it might increase his malady, or even destroy him; moreover, where it seemed proper, Paracelsus allayed the excitement of the nerves by immersion in cold water. On the treatment of the third kind we shall not here enlarge. It was to be effected by all sorts of wonderful remedies, composed of the quintessences; and it would require, to render it intelligible, a more extended exposition of peculiar principles than suits our present purpose.

This dancing mania attacked people of all stations, more especially such as led a sedentary life; but not seldom even the most robust labourers in the field gave way to it. Many continued dancing until they actually expired of fatigue. Others so completely lost their senses, that they dashed their brains out against walls and rocks, or rushed headlong into deep and rapid streams. Again, some patients were perfectly cured after the most violent attacks; while others pined and languished, and never regained a tithe of their former strength. Dr. Hecker speaks of them as "paying the penalty of their folly;" thus apparently assuming that these convulsions were voluntary, of which in the great majority of cases we see no proof whatever, and which indeed seems to contradict not a few of the Doctor's previous statements.

That patients should be violently affected by music, and their paroxysms brought on and increased by it, is natural with such nervous disorders; where deeper impressions are made through the ear, which is the most intellectual of all the organs, than through any one of the other senses. On this account the magistrates hired musicians for the purpose of carrying the St. Vitus's dancers so much the quicker through the attacks, and directed that athletic men should be sent among them in order to complete the exhaustion, which had been often observed to produce a good effect. At the same time there was a prohibition against wearing red garments, because at the sight of this colour those affected became so furious, that they flew at the persons who wore it, and were so bent upon doing them an injury that they could with difficulty be restrained. They frequently tore their own clothes whilst in the paroxysm, and were guilty of other improprieties, so that the more opulent employed confidential attendants to accompany them, and to take care that they did no harm either to themselves or others.

Why should the more opulent have employed confidential attendants to accompany them, &c., could they have entirely dispensed with the disease? It is a curious fact that most of those affected were only annually visited by attacks; and certain months in the year, June especially, had a peculiar effect in greatly increasing the number of patients. This disease appears to have gradually died away, though, according to Dr. Hecker, it is probable that in the South-west of Germany it existed in the 17th century.

We have an interesting description in this volume of "tarantism," or the dancing mania, which was supposed to proceed from the bite of the tarantula. Some of the earlier narratives relating to tarantism seem to us rather apocryphal; but, after the fearful ravages of "The Black Death," men's minds had become so morbidly sensitive, that they appear to have been liable in a manner which we moderns can scarcely conceive to the attacks of nervous disorders. It can scarcely be imagined that one-fourth of the persons affected with tarantism had ever been bitten by the tarantula; still less that the bite of this insect caused the frenzied dance we have been speaking of. This, we may add, was almost entirely an Italian mania:

The abhorrence of certain colours and the agreeable sensations produced by others were much more marked among the excitable Italians, than was the case in the St. Vitus's dance with the more phlegmatic Germans. Red colours, which the St. Vitus's dancers detested, they generally liked, so that a patient was seldom seen who did not carry a red handkerchief for his gratification, or greedily feast his eyes on any articles of red clothing worn by the by-standers. Some preferred yellow, others black colours, of which an explanation was sought, according to the prevailing notions of the times, in the difference of temperaments. Others again were enraptured with green; and eye-witnesses describe this rage for colours as so extraordinary that they can scarcely find words with which to express their astonishment. No sooner did the patients obtain a sight of the favourite colour than, new as the impression was, they rushed like infuriated animals towards the object, devoured it with their eager looks, kissed and caressed it in every possible way, and, gradually resigning themselves to softer sensations, adopted the languishing expression of enamoured lovers, and embraced the handkerchief, or whatever other article it might be, which was presented to them, with the most intense ardour, while the tears streamed from their eyes as if they were completely overwhelmed by the inebriating impression on their senses.

Nearly all the patients, too, evinced an ardent longing for the sea; and, as the St. Vitus's dancers sometimes cast themselves into rivers, so did the persons affected with tarantism into the sea. Being bathed in salt water and buried up to the neck in the earth—as was the fashion of some of the old Irish chieftains after a drunken debauch—afforded them great relief; but music above every other remedy was the cure in vogue, and mention is made of one benevolent lady who expended her whole fortune in rewarding the welcome musicians who came from time to time for the relief of the Tarantati. Some small fragments of songs and a very few Tarantellas are still in existence, which doubtless soothed some of the unhappy sufferers in the seventeenth century, when tarantism in Italy was at its greatest height. Strange stories are told of this disease. Octogenarians and even nonagenarians threw away their crutches, forgot their various ailments, and danced as they might have done in the heyday of youth some fifty or sixty years before. Children of a few years old displayed a dancing vigour that would shame many youths of twenty; and even deaf people were not exempt from this malady, but danced away at the sight of those affected. The chief cause of this and of all other similar nervous disorders was at first melancholy, and afterwards, perhaps, the disorder was communicated to others by a sort of nervous attraction or morbid sympathy. Some very strange but well-authenticated examples of this sympathy are given in the volume; and we have ourselves no doubt whatever that to this cause may be ascribed many of the symptoms which accompany the much-talked-of modern revivalism; which, by the way, is nothing new, and has unfortunately failed on several previous occasions to regenerate the world according to the wish and prophecies of persons who were, perhaps, more devout than wise. We heartily recommend this volume to the notice of those readers who really wish to understand the philosophy of revivalism,

which, on the whole, we must be pardoned for considering a somewhat morbid and unnatural state. As to all the benefits which are flowing and to flow from it, we can only say, "Credat Judæus Apella;" all this has happened before, or at least something very like it; and, unhappily, the world is not yet regenerate, and we are afraid can never become much wiser or better for any length of time through Shakers, Jumpers, Barkers, or any other convulsionist sect. The translator gives a curious extract from a valuable manuscript account of the Orkney and Shetland Islands, drawn up about 1774 by George Low, with notes by Mr. Pennant. The passage is unfortunately too long for quotation; but it gives a very curious account of "a most shocking distemper" which prevailed shortly before the date of the writer's journal, in the above-named islands. One person only was at first affected by it; but afterwards, "through fear or sympathy," the disease was communicated to many others. We recommend the attention of our readers to the quaint remedy which seems to have wholly eradicated the "shocking distemper" from one of the three parishes mentioned:

When the statistical account of this parish was published, this awful and afflicting disease was becoming daily less common. In the parishes of Aith-sting, Sandsting, and Northmaven, in which it was once very frequent, it was now totally extinct. In the last of these the cure is said to have been effected by a very singular remedy, which, if true, and there seems no reason to doubt it, shows the influence of moral causes in removing, as well as inducing, convulsive disorders. The cure is attributed to a rough fellow of a kirk officer, who tossed a woman in that state, with whom he had been frequently troubled, into a ditch of water. She was never known to have the disease afterwards, and others dreaded the same treatment.

We will now give a very brief sketch of the Child-pilgrimages of the middle ages—a subject which has as yet been little investigated in modern times. The most curious of these is perhaps the Boy Crusade, which took place in the year 1212. There is nothing apocryphal in the history of this crusade. We have still the accounts of eye-witnesses, which, as being mostly State documents, may be thoroughly relied on. The first impulse to this juvenile crusade was given by a shepherd-boy named Etienne, or Stephen, in a French village. We need not recount the marvels which are said to have pointed "Holy Stephen" out as the leader of this crusade. Suffice it to say that in a short time upwards of thirty thousand persons gathered round him:

The consternation of the parents at this event was boundless. No persuasion, nor even the despair and tears of the mothers, could keep back the boys. Were they hindered, they wept day and night, pined with sorrow, and fell ill with trembling of the limbs, so that at last of necessity they were let go. Others made light of locks and bolts, found means to elude the most vigilant attendants, to join the representatives of the shepherd-boy, Stephen, and at last even to behold this holy crusade-preacher. And there was no distinction of rank: the children of counts and barons ran away, as well as the sons of citizens and the poorest peasant boys; only the rich parents, when they could not keep their children back, sent guides to accompany them, who quietly may have rescued many. Many parents summoned their children to take the cross, others yielded to what they were unable to prevent, not venturing to oppose the eulogists of the little crusade-preachers. Only a few intelligent men, among whom were even some of the clergy, shook their heads; but it was in vain that they sought to restrain the multitude from their giddy infatuation, which must soon enough carry them to an abyss. No one of them ventured to utter his mind aloud, fearful of being charged with heresy, warned also by the disregard given to even the king's command. The movement did not last long before there was assembled at Vendôme an innumerable army of boys, armed and unarmed, many on horseback, the most on foot, and among them not a few girls in male clothing. Their number is estimated at more than thirty thousand.

This extraordinary procession now set out (not, however, before many had been squeezed to death in their efforts to get at Holy Stephen) from Vendôme to Marseilles on their way to Jerusalem. Of course, where there is something to prey on, eagles, or rather vultures, will be there to prey upon it; where fools are collected together, we may be tolerably sure that knaves are not very far off. Accordingly a troop of miscreants of both sexes so cheated and even robbed these young crusaders, that before they got to Marseilles they were utterly destitute. The end of the tale is melancholy:

But the worst awaited them in Marseilles. Two merchants of that place, whose names have been transmitted to posterity, Hugh Ferreus and William Porcus, vied with the inhabitants in affectionate reception of the young pilgrims, attended their religious exercises with devout aspect, and promised to take them to Palestine for God's blessing only. The boy army was still so numerous as to fill seven large ships and thus the little crusaders set sail, enthusiastically courageous, and full of gratitude to their benefactors. But two days after their departure a storm arose, two ships struck on St. Peter's Island, and not a soul was saved. The bodies were collected and buried in a church erected by Gregory IX. to their memory (*Ecclesia novorum innocentium*). The other five ships steered to Bougia and Alexandria, and the young crusaders were here all sold as slaves to the Saracens, and it is certain that none saw their native land again. The two betrayers afterwards met with their reward. The Emperor Frederick II. had them hanged in Sicily.

This episode reminds us of the story related by Sismondi, where an army of grown-up crusaders put themselves under the guidance of a goose, and by pushing and coaxing their leader onwards managed to get about half-way on their journey to the Holy Land, though we believe that in doing so two-thirds of them perished miserably.

Another children's crusade started from Germany with scarcely better fortune; and as these boy-adventurers were accompanied by numbers of women and girls, the moral corruption is said to have been without bounds. The whole subject is an interesting and instructive one, and deserves more attention than it has hitherto received. In conclusion, we may add that the present volume is well worthy of the reputation of the most learned medical historian in Germany.

KETT'S REBELLION.

Kett's Rebellion in Norfolk: being a History of the Great Civil Commotion that occurred at the Time of the Reformation, in the Reign of Edward VI. Founded on the "Commoysen in Norfolk, 1849," by Nicholas Sotherton; and the "De Furoribus Norfolciensium" of Nevill; and corroborated by extracts from the Privy Council Register, Documents preserved in the State Paper and other Record Offices, the Harleian and other MSS., and Corporation, Town, and Church Records. By the Rev. FREDERIC WILLIAM RUSSELL, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.A.S., and late Fellow of the University of Durham. With Illustrations. London: Longman and Co. 1859. pp. 240.

ON A HILL near the fair city of Norwich may be seen an ivy-covered building, once the chapel of St. Michael on the Mount, now called Kett's Castle. How it acquired its latter name can only be explained by narrating an episode in English history, which, though for many reasons well worthy of remembrance, has been allowed to fall into almost utter oblivion, until it came under Mr. Russell's notice. We say that it is well worthy of remark, because, though no doubt acts of violence were committed during this (so-called) rebellion, yet, on the whole, they were on the side of the insurgents few and far between, and chiefly committed when they were goaded into reprisals by the execution, with very short shrift, of some of their unhappy fellows. This rebellion—we do not use this word as thinking that it best explains the nature of the Norfolk rising—was in reality a protest against the continuance of the feudal system, with all its manifold extortions. Nor is it difficult to understand why the popular discontent, long smouldering, burst in open flame at this particular epoch. Among other causes, we may at once mention the suppression of so many religious houses, and the consequent cessation of that hospitality and charity which cheered and relieved many when in sore need; the change of landlords, from churchmen who, on the whole, were not grasping owners, to strangers who cared nothing for the tenants in possession save for what gain could be wrung from them; and further, the inclosure of common lands on a large scale by the nobility and gentry, with but very little regard for existing rights. To these may be added the depreciation of the currency, and the consequent advance in all things necessary for life, while wages remained fixed; the diminution of the demand for labour through the increased value of wool, which caused a vast quantity of arable land to be converted into pasture; and the extortions of the King's purveyors, many of whom purchased at their own prices from the commonalty. It may, however, be stated that the prime grievance alleged by Kett and his following was the very unjust inclosure of lands wholly or partially common. Unfortunately, the most of King Edward's advisers were not inclined to listen to any complaints, however reasonable. The Protector, indeed, did issue a proclamation in the King's name, giving pardon to "a great number of rude and ignorant people in certain shires of England" who had offended by levelling hedges and filling up ditches, &c. For this lenity he was greatly blamed; and Mr. Russell gives us an interesting letter from William Paget to Somerset, in which the latter is entreated to keep the King's subjects, from highest to lowest, in due obedience, and to "let such of them as be offendours smart for yt, whereby bothe the King's Majesty may have a profyt, and the pore man (yf that be the sore) be relieved." "There was also," as Mr. Russell remarks, "an impression in the minds of the people that the Council was divided; that, while there was an aristocratical party, headed by Warwick (ultimately the suppressor of the Norfolk rising), there was also another, headed by one well able to defend their cause—Somerset, 'the good Duke,' as people loved to call him."

The great rebellion commenced in a mere village brawl at Attleborough, "where they threw downe the fences of one Green of Wylby, who was supposed to have enclosed a parcell of Attleborow Common." From Attleborough the commotion slowly spread on through Eccles, Wilby, and other neighbouring villages; the inhabitants of which met together on the 20th June, 1549, and threw down the hedges that Mr. John Green, lord of the manor of Wilby, had placed round a portion of the adjoining common of Hargham and Attleborough.

When King Henry commenced his crusade against the monasteries, the inhabitants of Wymondham, desirous of saving their beautiful church from destruction, petitioned that it should be spared, on the condition of their paying for the bells, lead, &c., according to their value. They kept their part of the contract, but Serjeant Flowerdew nevertheless carried off the lead and nearly demolished the choir, to the great disgust of the baffled inhabitants. The family of the Ketts, who were ancient and honourable, and had principally supplied the money for the ransom of the church, were of course not inclined to be very friendly to Flowerdew after what he had done. Some of Flowerdew's hedges had been thrown down; and, vexed at this, he came to Wymondham and offered the insurgents 400*l.* if they would destroy the hedges of the inclosure belonging to Robert Kett. They went to Kett, told him what their designs were, and demanded that he should at once restore all the public land he had inclosed. Kett, who appears to have been an honourable gentleman, the very antipodes of Flowerdew, conversed kindly with them, and, after listening to their well-founded complaints, not only promised to comply with their request, but also to assist them in obtaining redress for some of their many grievances. He wound up his address to them with the promise, "I will not only be present at your councils, but henceforth will preside at them." As the quaintly censorious old chronicler says, inflamed by these words,

"illi despiciatissimi viri, ac omnium qui unquam post homines natos exstiterunt turpissimi," shouted aloud and testified their joy at having gained over such an important person to their cause. With Robert Kett was associated in the command his brother William. Our limits will not allow us to narrate the daily doings of the insurgents, what quickset hedges they threw down, or what ditches they filled up; suffice it to say that their numbers continually increased, and caused so much alarm to the worthy mayor and aldermen of the good city of Norwich, that they seem to have spent the whole or great part of the 9th and 10th of July in deliberation; and we may reasonably assume that their deliberations made them somewhat thirsty, as we find the following item in the City Chamberlain's accounts: "For drynke in the counsell chambyr the ix and x days of July, vjd." The worthy burgesses appear to have been somewhat timid; they determined to fortify the city, but to make no attempt to put the rebels down until they had received authority from the King to act. Of the rebels we are told, in order "to have a fayre shew and similitude of well doinge, they first procured a priyst to minister thyer morninge and evening prayer in the English tonge, then newly begon to bee frequently." Thus we can see that the leaders of the movement were thoroughly in earnest, and indeed, though doubtless not a few among the vast multitude who assembled under Kett cared little about the justice or injustice of their cause, it appears evident from Mr. Russell's narrative that the proceedings of the insurgents were on the whole characterised by great moderation and forbearance. We will give an extract from this volume which testifies to their courage:

When this message was carried back, the rebels with loud outcries ran down the hill, and tried their utmost to break in, but were withstood "every waye," and especially "wyth bowmen as they came from the byll;" though, however, "they were shott att wyth gret nombre of arrowes;" yet instead of being alarmed, "soe impudent were they, and soe desperate, that theyr vagabond boyes (literally sans culottes) came among the thickest of the arrowes and gathered them up, when some of the seid arrowes stock fast in theyr leggs and other parts." It is reported also that some, having the arrows sticking fast in their bodies (a thing fearful to tell), drawing them out of the wounds just received, gave them, as they were dropping with blood, to those who were standing around, that they might again make use of them. This proceeding, as well as that of the boys above mentioned, displaying, as it did, such utter contempt of danger, "soe dismayd the archers that it tooke theyr hart from them."

At length Dudley Earl of Warwick, afterwards Duke of Northumberland, was specially chosen to put down the insurgents, which, after several fierce encounters, he effected. Mr. Russell thus recounts the fate of the two Ketts:

On November 29th, Robert and William Kett were delivered out of the Tower of London to Sir Edmund Windham, High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk: they reached Norwich December 1st, and the former was confined in the Guildhall till Saturday, December 7th, when he was "drawn" to the castle, "and then and there over the walls of the same castle, in obedience to the king's command, was hanged in chains." Such was the end of the two brothers; such the issue of their bold attempt to obtain some redress of the many grievances they and others long had felt, and which, becoming at length too grievous to be borne, had roused them to take up arms for their removal. Short and easy was the method of those days with all such innovators: the hollow form of a trial; the pleading guilty; the accused committing himself to the king's mercy; the imprisonment; the fatal list with "justice," as if in bitter mockery of the hallowed word, inscribed against each name; the hurried journey; the few days' rest and confinement in the Guildhall; the procession with Kett in the midst "drawn" to the castle: the rope and gibbet; the raising of his body, whilom king of Norfolk and Suffolk, up those lofty walls, there to hang in chains—"hanged uppe for wynter store;"—short, indeed, and easy in those days was the method adopted with those who complained of grievances, and sought some remedy for them.

A few years afterwards King Edward dies, and thousands of the people of Norwich flock to the standard of the Lady Mary, believing in her freely-given promises. How Northumberland shortly after perished on the scaffold, and how ill the Queen kept her pledges, are matters of history. We may add that Mr. Russell's researches have thrown much new light upon this episode of English history, and that he shows pretty clearly that if Kett and his comrades were rebels, it was because they shrunk from being serfs and bondsmen.

A YANKEE HOAX.

The Moon Hoax; or, a Discovery that the Moon has a vast Population of Human Beings. By RICHARD ADAMS LOCKE. Illustrated with a View of the Moon, as seen by Lord Rosse's Telescope. New York: William Gowans. pp. 63.

IT MAY BE A DEGRADING RESULT, but we are irresistibly led to the belief that one of the achievements upon which our Transatlantic cousins chiefly plume themselves is the successful accomplishment of a money-making hoax. It is not enough for them to hoax for hoaxing's sake; dollars, hard, indubitable dollars, must be the result, or the joke loses all its pungency. They would no more think of filling St. Paul's Churchyard by steadily gazing at the cathedral's dome and asserting that a man in a white sheet on a donkey had been careering round it, than of attempting to fly over the cross; nor would they emulate the performance of Theodore Hook when, after a considerable expenditure of time and money, he filled the whole of a quiet street with innumerable tradesmen prepared to execute fictitious orders, a brass band, a wedding, and a funeral. Such profitless feats would by no means square with their calculations. There must be something of the wooden nutmegs or the woolly horse in the business to make it at all tolerable. When Barnum hoaxed the citizens of New York to see the buffalo fight, he took good care to make a profitable spec of it by chartering all the steamers for that day between Hoboken and the city; and so thoroughly did the New

Yorkers enter into the spirit of the hoax, that those who had found out the swindle would not warn their fellow-victims, but laughed in their sleeves to see them falling into the very trap from which they had just been released. These things being so, we are inclined to believe that, next to Bunker's Hill, there are few things the Yankee is so proud of as having executed a good hoax. Now, the morality of this is not very admirable, for a hoax is, after all, nothing but a successful falsehood. There are, however, hoaxes and hoaxes, just as there are *fagots et fagots*, and in estimating the culpability of hoaxes we take the rule to be that a hoax is blameable when it is founded upon a possible or probable statement—to ascertain the truth or falsehood of which there is no way but by experiment; but that when the hoax is founded upon something which is in itself absolutely absurd and obviously untrue, then we are led to more than half excuse it on account of the gross ignorance of the persons who have sacrificed themselves to it. Thus, when Barnum advertised that the buffaloes at Hoboken were full-grown animals, there was nothing impossible or even improbable in the statement, and people were simply gulled into giving credence to a flat untruth; but when a vast crowd is got together in the belief that some one will do something that is plainly impossible, such as jump a hundred yards, fly with the aid of wings, swallow a pig whole, or turn himself inside out, then our attention is too much attracted by considering the monstrous ignorance that could render such a hoax possible to pay much attention to the amount of blame which properly belongs to the hoaxers.

"The Great Moon Hoax," a full account of which is given in the pages before us, was perpetrated in the year 1835, by Mr. Richard Adams Locke, for the express benefit of the *New York Evening Sun*, whose circulation it was intended to affect, by awakening a powerful and absorbing interest in the public mind. It consisted of a series of articles, pretending to narrate the results of some astronomical investigations conducted by Sir John Herschel at the Cape of Good Hope. Sir John, it was stated, had succeeded in constructing such a wonderful telescope, that he was able to detect not only the physical aspects of the moon's surface, but even to set at rest for ever the long-disputed question as to the inhabitation of the moon, by displaying large numbers of the population of that satellite in the form of beings of a most peculiar character. Put forward with much mock solemnity, and with an oracular pretence of science, these statements were devoured with the most astonishing credulity; and one of the immediate results was that the circulation of the paper for whose benefit they were made increased fivefold in a very short time.

The account of these "great astronomical discoveries" purported to be taken from a Supplement to the *Edinburgh Journal of Science*. Of course this was untrue; but one fib needs many to cover it. After a brief but eloquent exordium upon the grandeur of astronomical investigations, the writer went on to explain his enthusiasm by stating that, "by means of a telescope of vast dimensions and an entirely new principle, the younger Herschel, at his observatory in the southern hemisphere, has obtained a distinct view of objects in the moon, fully equal to that which the unaided eye commands of terrestrial objects at the distance of a hundred yards; has affirmatively settled the question whether this satellite be inhabited, and by what order of beings; has firmly established a new theory of cometary phenomena; and has solved or corrected nearly every leading problem of mathematical astronomy." To this follows a circumstantial account of the manner in which the particulars of Sir John's marvellous discoveries had been obtained, and then a very minute description of the telescope with which they had been made, and the method of its construction. A vast deal of philosophy is exhibited in this, which, if not of the most genuine description, is at any rate very amusing. Perhaps the best part of this is the report of a conversation between Sir John Herschel and Sir David Brewster, in which the former unfolds his great discovery to the latter:

But, about three years ago, in the course of a conversational discussion with Sir David Brewster upon the merits of some ingenious suggestions by the latter, in his article on optics in the "Edinburgh Encyclopedia" (p. 644), for improvements in the Newtonian Reflectors, Sir John Herschel adverted to the convenient simplicity of the old astronomical telescopes that were without tubes, and the object-glass of which, placed upon a high pole, threw its focal image to a distance of 150, and even 200 feet. Dr. Brewster readily admitted that a tube was not necessary, provided the focal image were conveyed into a dark apartment, and there properly received by reflectors. Sir John then said that if his father's great telescope, the tube alone of which, though formed of the lightest suitable materials, weighed 3000 lbs., possessed an easy and steady mobility with its heavy observatory attached, an observatory moveable without the incumbrance of such a tube was obviously practical. This also was admitted, and the conversation became directed to that all-invincible enemy, the paucity of light in powerful magnifiers. After a few moments of silent thought, Sir John diffidently inquired whether it would not be possible to effect a *transfusion of artificial light through the focal object of vision*. Sir David, somewhat startled at the originality of the idea, paused awhile, and then hesitatingly referred to the refrangibility of rays and the angle of incidence. Sir John, grown more confident, adduced the example of the Newtonian Reflector, in which the refrangibility was corrected by the second speculum, and the angle of incidence restored by the third. "And," continued he, "why cannot the illuminated microscope, say the hydro-oxygen, be applied to render distinct, and, if necessary, even to magnify the focal object?" Sir David sprang from his chair in an ecstasy of conviction, and leaping half-way to the ceiling, exclaimed, "Thou art the man!" Each philosopher anticipated the other in presenting the prompt illustration that if the rays of the hydro-oxygen microscope, passed through a drop of water containing the larvæ of a gnat and other objects invisible to the naked eye, rendered them not only keenly but firmly magnified to dimensions of many feet; so could the same artificial light, passed through the faintest focal object of a telescope, both distinctly (to coin a new word for an extraordinary occasion) and magnify its feeblest component members. The only apparent desider-

atum was a recipient for the focal image which should transfer it, without refracting it, to the surface on which it was to be viewed under the revivifying light of the microscopic reflectors. In the various experiments made during the few following weeks, the co-operative philosophers decided that a medium of the purest plate glass (which it is said they obtained, by consent, be it observed, from the shop-window of Mons. Desanges, the jeweller to his ex-Majesty Charles X., in High-street) was the most eligible they could discover. It answered perfectly with a telescope which magnified 100 times, and a microscope of about thrice that power.

This problem solved, Sir John at once set to work upon the construction of his microscope-telescope, and for that purpose obtained a large grant from the Royal Society and *carte blanche* from King William IV. —given cheerfully by the Sailor King on being informed that the telescope would conduce to improvements in navigation. The first thing to be made was the object-glass, and, as that was to be twenty-four feet in diameter, this was no slight task; but after many difficulties, all here detailed with considerable minuteness, the glass was cast, and when finished its weight was nearly seven tons.

We pass, however, over these comparatively minor matters, and come to the great "lunar discoveries." The result of submitting the moon to the ingeniously-combined action of the telescope and oxy-hydrogen microscope is thus described:

It was about half-past nine o'clock on the night of the 10th, the moon having then advanced within four days of her mean libration, that the astronomer adjusted his instruments for the inspection of her eastern limb. The whole immense power of his telescope was applied, and to its focal image about one half of the power of his microscope. On removing the screen of the latter, the field of view was covered throughout its entire area with a beautifully distinct, and even vivid representation of *basaltic rock*. Its colour was a greenish brown, and the width of the columns, as defined by their interstices on the canvass, was invariably twenty-eight inches. No fracture whatever appeared in the mass first presented, but in a few seconds a shelving pile appeared of five or six columns width, which showed their figure to be hexagonal, and their articulations similar to those of the basaltic formation at Staffa. This precipitous shelf was profusely covered with a dark red flower, "precisely similar," says Dr. Grant, "to the Papaver Rheas, or rose-poppay of our subliminary corn-fields; and this was the first organic production of nature in a foreign world ever revealed to the eyes of men."

Pursuing their investigations, the astronomers come upon a lunar sea, which they at once pronounced to be the Mare Nubium of Riccioli:

A beach of brilliant white sand, girt with wild castellated rocks, apparently of green marble, varied at chasms, occurring every two or three hundred feet, with grotesque blocks of chalk or gypsum, and feathered and festooned at the summit with the clustering foliage of unknown trees, moved along the bright wall of our apartment until we were speechless with admiration. The water, wherever we obtained a view of it, was nearly as blue as that of the deep ocean, and broke in large white billows upon the strand. The action of very high tides was quite manifest upon the face of the cliffs for more than a hundred miles; yet, diversified as the scenery was during this and a much greater distance, we perceived no trace of animal existence, notwithstanding we could command at will a perspective or a foreground view of the whole. Mr. Holmes, indeed, pronounced some white objects of a circular form, which we saw at some distance in the interior of a cavern, to be *bonâ fide* specimens of a large cornu ammonis; but to me they appeared merely large pebbles, which had been chafed and rolled there by the tides. Our chase of animal life was not yet to be rewarded.

Soon, however, they come upon signs of animal existence:

In the shade of the woods on the south-eastern side, we beheld continuous herds of brown quadrupeds, having all the external characteristics of the bison, but more diminutive than any species of the Bos genus in our natural history. Its tail is like that of our Bos grunniens; but in its semicircular horns, the hump on its shoulders, and the depth of its dewlap and the length of its shaggy hair, it closely resembled the species to which I first compared it. It had, however, one widely distinctive feature, which we afterwards found common to nearly every lunar quadruped we have discovered; namely, a remarkable fleshy appendage over the eyes, crossing the whole breadth of the forehead and united to the ears. We could most distinctly perceive this hairy veil, which was shaped like the upper front outline of a cap known to the ladies as Mary Queen of Scots' cap, lifted and lowered by means of the ears. It immediately occurred to the acute mind of Dr. Herschel, that this was a providential contrivance to protect the eyes of the animal from the great extremes of light and darkness to which all the inhabitants of our side of the moon are periodically subjected. The next animal perceived would be classed on earth as a monster. It was of a bluish lead colour, about the size of a goat, with a head and beard like him, and a single horn, slightly inclined forward from the perpendicular. The female was destitute of the horn and beard, but had a much longer tail. It was gregarious, and chiefly abounded on the acclivities of the woods. In elegance of symmetry it rivalled the antelope, and like him it seemed an agile sprightly creature, running with great speed, and springing from the green turf with all the unaccountable antics of a young lamb or kitten. This beautiful creature afforded us the most exquisite amusement. The mimicry of its movements upon our white painted canvas was as faithful and luminous as that of animals within a few yards of the camera obscura when seen pictured upon its tympan. Frequently, when attempting to put our fingers upon its beard, it would suddenly bound away into oblivion, as if conscious of our earthly impertinence; but then others would appear, whom we could not prevent nibbling the herbage, say or do what we would to them.

Many other curious animals and physical phenomena were subsequently noted by the astronomers. At length, however their perseverance was rewarded by discovering the human inhabitants of the moon—if beings can be called human which differ so remarkably from all our ideas of humanity:

But whilst gazing upon them in a perspective of about half a mile, we were thrilled with astonishment to perceive four successive flocks of large winged creatures, wholly unlike any kind of birds, descend with a slow even motion from the cliffs on the western side, and alight upon the plain. They were first noticed by Dr. Herschel, who exclaimed "Now, gentlemen, my theories against your proofs, which you have often found a pretty even bet, we have here something worth looking at; I was confident that if ever we found beings in human shape, it would be in this longitude, and that they would be provided by their Creator with some extraordinary powers of locomotion; first exchange for my

number D." This lens, being soon introduced, gave us a fine half-mile distance, and we counted three parties of these creatures, of twelve, nine, and fifteen in each, walking erect towards a small wood near the base of the eastern precipices. Certainly they were like human beings, for their wings had now disappeared, and their attitude in walking was both erect and dignified. Having observed them at this distance for some minutes, we introduced lens H z, which brought them to the apparent proximity of eighty yards—the highest clear magnitude we possessed until the latter end of March, when we effected an improvement in the gas-burners. About half of the first party had passed beyond our canvas; but of all the others we had a perfectly distinct and deliberate view. They averaged four feet in height, were covered, except on the face, with short and glossy copper-coloured hair, and had wings composed of a thin membrane, without hair, lying snugly upon their backs, from the top of the shoulders to the calves of the legs. The face, which was of a yellowish flesh colour, was a slight improvement upon that of the large orang-outang, being more open and intelligent in its expression, and having a much greater expansion of forehead. The mouth, however, was very prominent, though somewhat relieved by a thick beard upon the lower jaw, and by lips far more human than those of any species of the Simia genus. In general symmetry of body and limbs they were infinitely superior to the orang-outang; so much so, that, but for their long wings, Lieut. Drummond said they would look as well on a parade ground as some of the old cockney militia! The hair on the head was a darker colour than that of the body, closely curled, but apparently not woolly, and arranged in two curious semicircles over the temples of the forehead. Their feet could only be seen as they were alternately lifted in walking; but, from what we could see of them in so transient a view, they appeared thin, and very protuberant at the heel. Whilst passing across the canvas, and whenever we afterwards saw them, these creatures were evidently engaged in conversation; their gesticulation, more particularly the varied action of their hands and arms, appeared impassioned and emphatic. We hence inferred that they were rational beings, and, although not perhaps of so high an order as others which we discovered the next month on the shores of the Bay of Rainbows, that they were capable of producing works of art and contrivance. The next view we obtained of them was still more favourable. It was on the borders of a little lake, or expanded stream, which we then for the first time perceived running down the valley to a large lake, and having on its eastern margin a small wood. Some of these creatures had crossed this water, and were lying like spread eagles on the skirts of the wood. We could then perceive that they possessed wings of great expansion, and were similar in structure to those of the bat, being a semi-transparent membrane expanded in curvilinear divisions, by means of straight radii, united at the back by the dorsal integuments. But what astonished us very much was the circumstance of this membrane being continued from the shoulders to the legs, united all the way down, though gradually decreasing in width. The wings seemed completely under the command of volition, for those of the creatures whom we saw bathing in the water spread them instantly to their full width, waved them as ducks do theirs to shake off the water, and then as instantly closed them again in a compact form. Our further observation of the habits of these creatures, who were of both sexes, led to results so very remarkable, that I prefer they should first be laid before the public in Dr. Herschel's own work, where I have reason to know they are fully and faithfully stated, however incredulously they may be received. . . . The three families then almost simultaneously spread their wings, and were lost in the dark confines of the canvas before we had time to breathe from our paralysing astonishment. We scientifically denominated them the *Vespertilio-homo*, or man-bat; and they are, doubtless, innocent and happy creatures, notwithstanding that some of their amusements would but ill comport with our terrestrial notions of decorum. The valley itself we called the Ruby Colosseum, in compliment to its stupendous southern boundary, the six-mile sweep of precipices two thousand feet high. And the night, or rather morning, being far advanced, we postponed our tour to Petavius (No. 20) until another opportunity.

And here we must take leave of the "Great Moon Hoax" of Mr. Richard Adams Locke, which we are certainly inclined to classify with the more pardonable kind of hoaxes for the reason stated above; namely, that it was based upon impossibilities so monstrous and preposterous, that our sense of the impudence of the hoax is altogether lost in our amazement at the ignorance and credulity that could cause it to be successful. At the same time we must admit that the account is written with very great skill, and must have required no small amount of scientific knowledge to produce so perfect a parody of scientific statement. Altogether it is the cleverest thing of the kind we have met with—far more so than "Heliode," far more so than "Kaloolah;" and we are indebted to Mr. Gowans for having disinterred from the files of the American papers so interesting an episode in the history of Transatlantic journalism.

AMERICAN LOCAL HISTORY.

History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. By SAMUEL GREENE ARNOLD. Vol. I. 1636-1700. New York: D. Appleton and Co. London: Trübner and Co. 1859. pp. 574.

IT MAY BE URGED in favour of this volume that it contains a vast mass of facts painfully and laboriously collected together, and that it completes a defective link in the history of the great trans-Atlantic republic. At the same time we think it can scarcely be gainsaid that Mr. Arnold writes in the driest and most catalogue-like style; he narrates the mutilation of half-a-dozen Quakers, or the burning alive of as many hundred Indians, with the same honest attention to details, and absence of warmth of language, that he might use in speaking of the contents of a ship's cargo or a huckster's pack. He seems, indeed, to entertain rather a contemptuous feeling for the person who may wish to extract amusement as well as instruction from his book. He says of himself in his preface: "So far as was compatible with the above object [a conscientious desire to arrive at the truth], he has endeavoured to make the work interesting to those who read simply for the sake of reading; but he can claim nothing upon this score. The minutiae of local or of State history demand an attention to details which broader fields do not require, and limit in the same proportion the power of the pen. To make a State history both authentic and popular, where the ground has not already been occupied, would require it to be too voluminous." We think that "those persons who read simply for reading's sake" are

entitled to a little more consideration than Mr. Arnold seems to think. They form perhaps the majority of book-readers; and possibly they might have been lured away (had our author been a little more genial in his style) from lamenting over the imaginary woes of sentimental heroes and heroines in novels to bestow a sigh upon the memory of the many men and women who were hanged and tortured because they refused to worship God according to the precise formula prescribed by puritanical intolerance. "*Haud ignara mali miseris succurrere disco*," said Virgil's heathen Queen; and one might have imagined that a number of Englishmen professing Christianity, constantly enacting rites and ordinances and insisting on their observance with more than Pharisaic zeal, might have learned mercy from their own harsh treatment. But no: these rigid formalists, who protested against the persecution set on foot against them in backsliding England—who appealed to Heaven that all they wanted was to be allowed to worship God quietly after their own fashion, and live in peace with their neighbours—had no sooner established themselves in their adopted country, than they utterly outdid their persecutors in the variety of tortures which they invented, and the persistency with which they inflicted them upon all persons who ventured to think that Heaven might be reached by any other way than the dreary road fenced about with the innumerable traps and snares invented by the ingenious bigotry and malice of Puritans with hard hearts and shallow brains. We think few persons can read of the persecution of the Quakers and others, as recorded in the very methodical and unimpassioned pages of Mr. Arnold, without feeling almost a loathing for the memory of some of these "Pilgrim Fathers." Of course we shall be told they did everything with the best intention—that, when they tortured the bodies of sufferers with an ingenious malice that might have excited the jealousy of a Red Indian tribe, they only thought of saving souls. We shall not quote saws or common-places about persecution making persecutors of its victims, or that the will must be taken for the deed, &c., but only ask some of those writers who are fond of indulging in rhapsodies on the Pilgrim Fathers, evangelical Puritanism, &c., to read even in these pages (Mr. Arnold is himself, we think, a Puritan, but he is also something more—he is an honest historian) how these same meek pastors hanged, burned, tortured, and whipped publicly men and women, and even children, whose only crime was the very serious one in most ages of daring to worship God in their own way. The topic is an odious one; but at the same time we think it not unprofitable to those who will read, mark, learn, and digest it; and although we know that many persons sympathise much more intensely with fictitious than with historical characters, still such atrocious murders (we cannot term them otherwise, though performed in apparent obedience to the law) as those of Mary Dyre, Marmaduke Stevenson, and many others, may well excite sympathy for the innocent sufferers and disgust for the vile bigotry that caused them to suffer. We give the following extract as a very favourable specimen of Mr. Arnold's style:

The capture of Canonchet, the leader of the Narragansets, next to that of Philip himself, was the most decisive blow. It was he who had defeated Captain Peirce nine days before, and had cut off his entire command. This terrible defeat roused the United Colonies to more vigorous action. Four companies of Connecticut volunteers, with three of friendly Indians, immediately marched to attack Canonchet. Capt. George Denison of Stonington, who led one of the companies, was conspicuous for his zeal and bravery. This force surprised Canonchet near the scene of Peirce's massacre at Pawtucket, and a rout ensued. The Sachem fled, but, having slipped in wading the river, was overtaken on the opposite bank by a Pequot, and surrendered without resistance. The first Englishman who came up to him was a young man named Robert Stanton, who put some questions to the royal captive. "*You much child! No understand matters of war! Let your brother or chief come. Him I will answer!*" was the contemptuous reply after regarding the youth for a moment in silence. His life was offered him on condition of the submission of his tribe. He treated the offer with calm disdain, and when it was urged upon him, desired "*to hear no more about it.*" He was sent in charge of Capt. Denison to Stonington, where a council of war condemned him to be shot. When informed that he must die, he made this memorable answer, which may challenge the loftiest sentiment recorded in classical or modern history. "*I like it well; I shall die before my heart is soft, or I have said anything unworthy of myself.*" His conduct on this occasion has been justly compared with that of Regulus before the Roman Senate, than which the chronicles of time present but one sublimer scene. A higher type of manly character, more loftiness of spirit, or dignity of action, the qualities that make heroes of men, and once made demigods of heroes, than are found in this western savage, may be sought in vain among the records of Pagan heroism or of Christian fortitude. To ensure the fidelity of the friendly tribes by committing them to a deed that would for ever deter the Narragansets from seeking their alliance, it was arranged that each of them should take a part in the execution. Accordingly the Pequots shot him, the Mohicans cut off his head and quartered him, and the Niantics, who, under Ninigret, had joined the English, burned his body, and sent his head as "*a token of love*" and loyalty to the commissioners at Hartford. Thus perished the foremost of Philip's captains, and the last great Sachem of the Narragansets!

Indeed, it cannot be laid to the charge of our forefathers that at this period of time they indulged in any spurious chivalry. Foes and friends, who chose to think for themselves in religious matters, alike met with little sympathy from them. Their captured enemies they generally contented themselves with simply shooting, while stripes, torture, and the gallows were the strong arguments they made use of for the conversion of any recalcitrant religionist.

There is a very complete index to this volume, which will make it useful as a book of reference. Otherwise, except that the actors were our forefathers, there is little to attract in these pages. Mr. Arnold concludes his preface with the following observations: "To enlarge upon the philosophy of the fundamental principles involved in the settlement of Rhode Island would afford a pleasing relief from

the labour of critical research; but this can be better done by the reflecting reader, or it may furnish a theme for some future historian, more fitted for the task than the writer feels himself to be, who will reap the laurels that he must forego."

We, for our parts, cannot see why Mr. Arnold should choose to indulge in this stern self-abnegation, unless it be that he finds it impossible to infuse a little life and warmth into his historical characters. Facts and figures he collects with a laborious accuracy which is worthy of all praise; but he deals also with his human agents after a somewhat similar fashion: and although we know that they did such and such things which they ought not to have done, and failed to do other things which they ought to have done, they leave but little impression upon us, and we part from them without sympathy or regret.

NOVELS.

Cousin Stella; or, Conflict. By the Author of "Violet Bank and its Inmates." London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 3 vols. pp. 929.

The Two Homes. By WILLIAM MATHEWS. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 3 vols. pp. 814.

Rocks and Shoals. By Captain LOVESY. London: Charles Westerton. 2 vols. pp. 590.

Confidences. By the Author of "Rita." London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1859. pp. 332.

"COUSIN STELLA" is a story which will have many admirers, although there is nothing very new either in the incidents or in the *dramatis personæ*. The interest is centred in a young lady, Stella Joddrell, who, after passing the several ordeals of being under the direction of a hard grandmother, an indifferent aunt, and a brutal father, is at length emancipated as an heiress, and bestows herself and her fortune upon an ailing and decrepit cousin, for whom she has long had a romantic attachment. Part of the scene lies in Switzerland, other parts in England, and the rest in Jamaica—the last-mentioned locality affording opportunities, which are not neglected, for views upon negro emancipation (a stale subject in novels now), and for some highly-spiced scenes of floggings, poisoning in revenge, and *émutes* of the blacks. The characters of Stapylton Smythe and of his wife Olympia are well drawn, though the author betrays juvenility in assigning thirty-nine for the age of the battered old beau. To sum up, we cannot call this a great, or even a very good novel; but it has a sufficient amount of merit to render a moderate success probable.

The lessons intended to be inculcated by "The Two Homes" are that straightforward trading is better than speculating; that an honest merchant has no right to play ducks and drakes with the remittances of his correspondents; that honesty is the best policy; that it is best to tell the truth and shame some one who shall be nameless; and that when old fellows marry fashionable young wives with brothers who have a turn for spunging, ill will follow. Trite enough these gems of wisdom, surely; but in this case pleasantly enough illustrated by a readable and interesting story. The character of the sensitive and conscientious Edward is decidedly the best in the book, and those of his father, the gay young stepmother, Miss Weston, and Mr. Ryland, are drawn with a firm and truthful hand. For the young ladies, Minnie Seaton is very vaguely sketched in; and as for Ada and her sudden unreasonable love for the fascinating but felonious Sir George Elplingstone, we are left in an inextricable state of doubt whether she is intended for an idiot or a maniac. The commercial crisis of 1847-8 is made use of very skilfully and legitimately, and altogether we predict that "The Two Homes" will be among the fictions of the season by no means the least in the estimation of novel-readers.

Captain Lovesy's two little volumes, entitled "Rocks and Shoals," contain a very effective, though highly-coloured, picture of a certain class of life; and if the disclosures made in it include nothing that is particularly new, they are of a nature which will always have peculiar attractions to those who devour light literature. The proceedings of sharp attorneys, the swindles of the turf, the *coulisses* of a theatre, all these may possibly have been used more than once, by better or worse writers than Captain Lovesy. What then? Revelations about these things, whether made with or without authority—and in this case we are disposed to concede the merit of *vraisemblance* to the author—will always attract the curious, especially if served up with such highly-spiced condiments as a murder, a forgery, and a suicide.

Mr. Geoffrey Hibblethwaite, the hero of the story, is a youth of respectable family, who is left to his own resources by the sudden death of his father, the elopement of his mother, and the unpleasant discovery that the balance of the estate, all debts being paid, does not exceed a few pounds. Disdaining all assistance from friends, Master Geoffrey determines to seek his fortune in London; and, although his first beginnings in the world display much of that verdancy which might be expected in an inexperienced lad, he soon finds himself pretty firmly fixed upon his legs. Happening very opportunely by his approach to frighten away some highwaymen who were in the act of robbing a respectable commercial traveller, his new friend takes a great fancy to him, and, taking him to London with him, introduces him to a friend of his—one Mr. Sharpe, managing clerk to the firm of Dodgeley and Hawker, of Gray's-inn. Here young Geoffrey sees a great deal of what may be termed "sharp legal practice," and is enabled, by keeping his ears open and his tongue quiet, to probe very deeply into the nefarious secrets of his employers—above all, into the projects which are entertained between Hawker and a turf confederate

named Lockyer upon the property of the Farnleys, a family with which young Hibblethwaite had been connected in his more respectable days. Soon after this Hawker proposes to him to forge the name of a wealthy old lady who had lately died intestate, whereupon our hero discovers that the said old lady is his aunt and he her heir—a very sufficient reason in itself for refusing to acquiesce in such villany. The end of the story is that Geoffrey grows rich and prosperous, and marries Miss Isabella Farnley, the wife of his choice. Hawker is murdered by the hand of his accomplice Lockyer, who expiates his crime upon the gallows. A single quotation, the very life-like description of the firm of Dodgeley and Hawker, will serve to give a very sufficient, and we believe very favourable, idea of Captain Lovesy's style:

Mr. Dodgeley, the senior partner, was a sedate and staid-looking personage of fifty, who had about him much of that stillness which is usually attributed to deep waters. He had a fresh, rosy, and by no means unattractive countenance. His outward man was invariably habited in a formal-cut coat and vest of brown broadcloth of the finest description, and drab continuations. His linen, his enemies said, was scarcely typical of his morals, being of the whitest and most spotless, his boots were of the brightest, and the brim of his glossy and carefully-brushed hat of the broadest. His grave and calm appearance, coupled with his quiet and self-possessed manner, induced a tolerably general belief that he was a member of the Society of Friends, amongst whom, and several others of the Nonconformist persuasions, he boasted an extremely wide and profitable business connection. This supposition, inasmuch as it was instrumental in bringing grist to his mill, he was at no pains to contradict; and, to do him justice, there is little doubt but that he would have embraced that or any other form of belief, whether Roman Catholic, Buddhist, Jewish, or Mahometan, the adoption whereof could in any way be turned to account or rendered subservient to business. The junior of the firm was, in almost every point upon which it is possible for men to differ, the very antithesis of his partner. His manners and appearance, his clients and his business, were of an entirely distinct and different order. Those whose judgment was hasty and knowledge of the men imperfect, would probably have regarded a partnership connection between them as an experiment no more likely to succeed than the harnessing of a freshly-captured zebra with a sedate ox of mature age and steady habits. Mr. Hawker might have numbered eight-and-thirty years, was tall, slim, and not bad-looking. He employed a fashionable tailor, sported a moustache, and was the owner of a thorough-bred horse or two. His clients were chiefly sporting men of the better class; and he himself, as though for the purpose of chiming with their humour and maintaining his connection, carried a small betting book, generally containing entries of a limited number of extremely judicious ventures upon most sporting events of the day. He gave occasionally very exquisite little dinners at his bijou residence at Hampstead, where the cuisine was perfect and the wines unimpeachable. Upon these occasions, however, his guests generally paid pretty liberally for their entertainment, it somehow or another invariably happening that a little blind-hokey, *écarté*, or a few casts of the dice, terminated the proceedings of the evening; and Mr. Hawker's "luck" upon such occasions was proverbial. He was, however, at all times prepared to remedy any inconvenience caused by a run of ill-fortune by a loan (upon proper security and bearing a certain rate of interest), the amount advanced being at all times amply covered by such security. Notwithstanding the apparently wide and impassable gulf which seemed to interpose between these respectable partners, the most perfect understanding existed between them. They played admirably into each other's hands, could keep a client moving shuttlecock-fashion between them, when occasion required, in the most approved manner; and although the stylish clients of Mr. Hawker were perpetually jostling the sleek-looking individuals in rusty black and limp neckcloths who made Mr. Dodgeley their oracle, all was harmony. The profession of the law, as practised by Mr. Hawker, appeared at first sight an extremely light and pleasant occupation: such indeed as, when combined with considerable profit, would have great charms for a young gentleman oscillating in the choice of a calling. He completely upset and dissipated all my former notions of an acute and indefatigable man of business. No tedious drawing up of cases for the opinion of counsel, no close and painful prying into the dark intricacies of a conveyance, no ink-stained fingers, no thought-contracted brow. Arrived in the morning at his office, he assumed the air of a man who has to pass a given number of hours in a certain place as he best may. The morning papers were always placed ready to hand, which, after leisurely seating himself, he proceeded to unfold and peruse; and I observed that the City Article and the reports of the Bankrupt and Insolvent Courts possessed for him the principal attractions. However, notwithstanding this apparent apathy and indifference to business, Mr. Hawker, like a watchful spider lurking within the inmost recesses of his fragile fortress, was ready for action at a moment's notice; and a very short experience sufficed to afford me a full explanation of all that seemed at first sight incomprehensible. The firm were money-lenders and bill-discounters upon an extremely extensive scale. This branch of the business was placed exclusively under the superintendence and management of Mr. Hawker, whose fashionable exterior and apparently jovial disposition procured him ready access to every class of borrower, whether peer or commoner, gentleman or tradesman. His mode of proceeding was simple. The security offered by the seeker of a loan having been duly approved, an advance of money was made. From this time forth Mr. Hawker appeared to exercise a species of snake-like fascination over his victim, who, by a series of allurements not very easy nor indeed necessary to be described, was hurried on from one station to the next on the railroad of ruin, until he was at length landed—if it may be so termed—in a quagmire of hopeless and inextricable difficulty. Then Mr. Dodgeley, who like a frozen viper had been hitherto quiescent, began to thaw, and make himself unpleasantly active. Under his able guidance, all the artillery of legal warfare was quickly brought to bear upon the unfortunate debtor. Writ, declaration, and such missiles were poured, grape and canister fashion, upon him with merciless rapidity, until judgment and execution, like the explosion of a mine, settled the business. Then Mr. Dodgeley directed a gallant and final charge of bailiffs under the command of an experienced officer (in the sheriff's service); the enemy was taken prisoner, his baggage captured, and his destruction complete.

"Confidences" is confined to one volume, and has no plot. It contains, however, quite as much incident and variety of character as the majority of three-volume novels nowadays published. As to absence of plot, we have no hesitation in saying that there is much better to be none at all than a bad one. The confidential communications here disclosed to the public consist of a series of letters from a country curate, Mr. Herbert Esdaile, to a married sister in Germany. He describes pithily and naturally enough the various personages, male and female, who are found within the boundaries of his cure; and,

though we may consider that his lines have fallen in pleasant places, we cannot say that there may not be country parishes which contain as many agreeable inhabitants. The Morley episode is somewhat improbable, but "all is well that ends well." If any fault can be alleged against this agreeable little volume, it is that Esdaile, just fresh from Oxford, *et. 23*, criticises off-hand the characters of those persons he meets, with an exactness of insight which would be remarkable even in a keen man of the world who had lived three times as long as our far-seeing curate. Of course we do not mean to say that it would not be advantageous if all young clergymen were as charitably sagacious as Mr. Esdaile is; but, as they cannot be so without possessing almost superhuman endowments, we must refuse to accept this gentleman as the type, normal or abnormal, of a country curate. It may interest our fair readers to know that this model curate marries, on an income of less than 300*l.* per annum, a young lady not unworthy of such a clerical Crichton.

PEBBLES ON THE SHORE.

Beach Rambles in Search of Sea-side Pebbles and Crystals. By J. G. FRANCIS, B.A. London: Routledge. pp. 186.

IT IS GOOD TO HAVE A HEALTHY HOBBY, and one of the healthiest is the collection of some branch of Natural History. It is good to walk and use the strength which God has given us in bracing up the body and clearing the brain; but the prescribed "constitutional" of ten miles along a turnpike-road, performed as a task, and without end or object, is one of the worst forms of exercise that could be devised. We are not quite sure whether it does not more than neutralise the physical good, by the lethargic torpor and feeling of deadly weariness in which it leaves the mind. Now a good collecting hobby cures that matter directly. Turn botanist and put a *vasculum* in your pocket, and lo! every hedge has treasures for you, every ditch charms, every wall offers its lichens and its mosses, and the dull piece of waste land offers rich promise of acquisitions to your herbarium. Or, if you prefer it, be an entomologist and chase the "Emperor of Morocco" with Sir Joseph Banks, or in the still evening sally forth with net and lamp to lure the brilliant moth or the armed beetle with sugary bait or brilliant flame. Better still, join Mr. Francis, and with him, by the side of the "much-resounding sea," in some of the many thousands of delightful spots to be found among the shingly beaches of our shore, search for the mineral treasures which are his especial favourites in all nature's garner-house.

Mr. Francis, like a true hobbyhorse-rider, is very enthusiastic upon his subject, and falls into raptures with an appearance which, as rendered by the chromo-lithographic plates, reminds us rather too closely of some of the illustrations to Dr. Erasmus Wilson's book on cutaneous disorder. We happen to know, however, that pebbles, when properly cut and polished, look far better in reality than in such attempts at representation, and are quite willing to concede to Mr. Francis that a collection of the agates, jaspers, chalcedonies, and fossils which are to be found on our beaches by the diligent seeker, is an object very well worth examination. Nor is Mr. Francis alone in his worship of these cheap gems. Are not the shingles of Brighton, of Scarborough, and of Ryde searched over by thousands of eager jewel-seekers every season? Know we not of the scientific zeal which upon this subject animates the bosom of our grave friend Horsleydown? How he bows his wise and reverent head to bring his majestic nose all the nearer to "the ribbed sea-sand?" How he delights in his stony jetsam, and how he nearly banished us from his heart and his will for the offence of incautiously handling his "best moss-agate," of which improper proceeding a fracture was the dire result? Bearing in mind these things, we respect Mr. Francis and his hobby, and recommend his neat and well got-up little volume to all who would fain become adepts in the same pursuit.

In giving advice to pebble-seekers, in describing the appearance of such as are worth picking up, in indicating the best localities, Mr. Francis is a guide that may be depended upon; it is only when he ventures into the deep sea of geological speculation, or delivers unintelligible oracles about the wind and the waves, that we cannot undertake to go bail for his accuracy. Sometimes when, too, he attempts to be familiarly scientific, the result is far from satisfactory.

If we were to inquire how oriental sapphires, including the ruby, the blue sapphire, the emerald, and the amethyst are formed from clay, that clay which exists in the granite rocks, the difficulty would be nearly as great. We do not know at all. But there is some satisfaction in having undoubted proof of the nature of their "base." And the obvious evidence upon this point is very simple, and prior to that of chemical analysis. My own attention was first drawn to it many years ago, in a casual remark made by a friend. We were handling some crystals of the white sapphire, a stone of little value. "These look very like glass," said I. "Yes, but you may always tell them from glass by their coldness. Touch one with your tongue." Then followed the inquiry, "And why is it so much colder than glass is?" "Because the 'base' of the sapphire is clay, and clay is a very cold substance."

This, we need hardly say, was a very inconclusive reply on the part of the friend, for it was very nearly equivalent to saying "Sapphire is cold because it is." It seems to us that a better answer would have been, that it *felt* colder because it was a more rapid conductor of heat than glass. Mr. Francis scarcely needs, we should imagine, to be told that any two substances in the same temperature must be of equal temperature themselves. Franklin's remark upon the sensation caused by his hand resting on the baize cover of his desk, whilst

his wrist was upon the brass mounting] of the lock, is a familiar example of this.

Not unfrequently Mr. Francis is apt to indulge in a little moral reflection which almost approaches the rhapsodical. Thus, in speaking of tides, he says:

Now the tides depend upon the moon; yet how seldom do we think of her invaluable services when we gaze upon her pale face! An Italian once told me that he "loved the moon, adored the moon, never tired of looking at the moon." And the Padishah, I have heard say, prefers "moon-faced" ladies for his soft companions; but I doubt whether either the pensive Italian or the glittering lord of the Bosphorus ever bestowed five minutes' thought on the mighty phenomenon of the tides.

This is very moonstruck madness.

A truce to fault-finding, however, and let us hasten to recognise merits in the little volume which are both genuine and solid. As we have already intimated, the young pebble-seeker will find it a valuable help to him in teaching him what, and what not, to do; whilst the more experienced beach-grubber will doubtless discover in it many hints that will be of service to him in finding grist for the lapidary's mill. Take, for example, the following excellent piece of advice how to discern the good pebble beneath the unpretending exterior:

The more peculiar a beach is in its contents, the less will it exhibit to catch the eyes of one who has never learnt to appreciate them. Coloured seaweeds are enticingly bright; pearly shells are as evident as trinkets; but the external coat of a genuine pebble differs widely from its internal structure, and may yield to the uninitiated no indication whatever of the value of the latter. A crust of hardened lime or sandstone is a frequent envelope of the best specimens in one kind of zoophyte. The stone itself is very likely mis-shapen, and perhaps lies more than half buried in sand or shingle. Without knowing anything of the nature of these fossils, you may occasionally pick up such "darkies" at a venture; but you will never feel assured of them, you will never be able to glean them from the multitudinous gravel, as the determined fly-fisher gets the best trout out of a pool, if you have not the pleasure of an intimate acquaintance with their species. The readiest way of acquiring this, and it is not born with anybody, is to spend a wakeful half-hour, once and again, at the board of any civil lapidary, and there thoroughly to inspect his casual store. A trifling purchase will abundantly content him in return, the more as he hopes to cut several pebbles for you. Observe, then, the peculiar way in which the outer crust of an old pebble is worn, as compared with that of one which has newly descended upon the beach. This crust or cuticle is highly suggestive, if you can once come to understand it; and as a hopeful indication of progress, you may safely assume that you do understand it, when you find that you can obtain pebbles such as nine persons out of ten somehow never "have the luck" to meet with. Sometimes a stone has parted with its original coating, and has donned another; and this operation may either be complete, or still in *feri*. In the latter case, there will always be some token; either by the substance not lying evenly, or by a change in the colour of the second envelope, which becomes apparent on chipping off a fragment from its surface. Lose no opportunity of perfecting your judgment upon any form or texture that comes in your way; for upon this will really depend what sort of collection you shall win from the bosom of the coy beach. Nothing is easier, on an average coast, than to pick up a score of showy-looking but inferior stones. Few things will be found more difficult than to bring home, as the fruit of your morning's walk, two or three valuable specimens. And the cause of this lies not at all in luck, nor altogether in mere labour; for in all departments there are dunces who will still drudge hard. It lies in the presence or absence of sound information on the subject.

In spite of what we have already set down against Mr. Francis's moral reflections, some of them are by no means to be despised. The following is a golden maxim:

Above all, let the pebble-searcher have nothing on his mind when he sets forth: no broken engagements, no crying debts. Otherwise he may look in vain for moss-agates. Shakespeare, when he has to account for a valiant warrior and politic general, a crowned king to boot, losing the great battle of Bosworth-field, ascribes it all to the ghosts who sat heavy on his soul. Any neglected or injured creature may prove on such occasions a vengeful ghost.

In the previous page is another piece of advice to lady pebble-seekers, and one which we have no doubt they will generally contrive to follow, which is, never to go upon the beach "without some stalwart arm to lean upon." The only danger of this course seems to be that the couple might possibly find some more interesting topic for discussion than even moss-agates and choanites.

The Life of Jabez Bunting, D.D.; with Notices of contemporary Persons and Events. By his Son, THOMAS PERCIVAL BUNTING. Vol. I. (Longmans.)

—When a person dies who, like Dr. Bunting, occupied a prominent position in a large religious community, it is but natural that his friends and admirers should expect a memorial of him to be addressed to them by some one the best fitted for the task. Neither, we presume, can there be any possible objection to a son fulfilling this pious duty. We of the outer world, however, cannot in reason be expected to adequately appreciate such a performance. Methodism has been always a strange institution, and the relation in which Dr. Bunting stood with respect to it cannot be well understood, except by those duly initiated in its mysteries. We believe, however, that we shall not err in regarding him as a sort of hierophant in the persuasion—one whose lightest utterances were regarded by his co-religious with a feeling akin to veneration. This was more especially the case during the latter years of his life, when he stood forward as the champion of Conservative Methodism against the authors of the "Fly Sheets" and other innovators, "Sons of Belial," who could not be persuaded that the government by "Conference" was the nearest approach to perfection upon earth. The buzz raised by this controversy, together with some passages of a dispute that happened some years ago between the reverend gentleman and Daniel O'Connell, the latter of whom characteristically finished it by declaring of his antagonist, at a public meeting in Ireland, that "the fellow was as ugly as his name," is all that readers in general know of the celebrated Dr. Bunting. It is not all, however, that deserves to be known. Whoever has the patience to read this memoir through will gather from it that the person whose life and character are portrayed was both an honest and conscientious man, one who laboured in his vocation with a singleness of

purpose and abandonment of self that are entitled to the highest praise. He was one that understood both how to obey and how to command; and if in the latter capacity he failed to conciliate every turbulent spirit that revolted against the existing order of things in Wesleyan Methodism, what wonder is it? Such is the fate of all who are resolved to adopt the maxim of "stare super vias antiquas." The old ways were what he delighted in; and it is only upon such, we believe, and we speak it without prejudice, that Methodism can stand. In conclusion, we could have wished that the present memoir had been much curtailed in its dimensions. The volume before us brings us down only to the year 1811, the portion of Dr. Bunting's life least interesting to the general reader, whatever it may be to members of "the Connection." There is literally nothing in it that we could offer in the shape of extract. Dr. Bunting, in fact, appears to have been woefully deficient in that geniality of character which makes the lives of such men as Adam Clarke, Edward Irving, and Dr. Chalmers interesting to every one; while the notices that it contains of "contemporary persons and events" are all so sectarian, that it would be ridiculous to bring them under the eyes of any but "the people called Methodists," to whom Mr. Percival Bunting has very properly dedicated his work.

Verses. By a Country Curate. (Joseph Masters.) p. 172.—Excellent in intention are these hymns, and some are really good in execution. The eighty-nine pieces of composition contained in the little volume are divided, quaintly enough, under such headings as *Ordinarium de Tempore*, *Proprium de Tempore*, *Commune Sanctorum*, *Proprium Sanctorum*, &c. The first part contains a number of morning and evening hymns for ordinary use. These are among the least successful compositions in the book. Take the fifth, for example, which opens with

Our limbs are now refresh'd with sleep;
We leave our beds and rise;
And pray Thee, Father, to attend
This early sacrifice.

Which is something like, but not half so good as

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and early rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

The "Hymn on the Day of Thanksgiving for the Suppression of the Indian Rebellion" is of better quality:

O God of Hosts, Great Sovereign, Thou,
Before whose throne the nations bow,
Who makest raging wars to cease,
And crown'st the world with smiling peace;
To Thee our duteous hymns we raise,
The grateful tribute of our praise;
To Thee we make our rev'rent pray'r,
And ask Thy still continued care.

We do not imagine, however, that village urchins let out from school for a day would derive much additional felicity from chanting such verses as the following, taken from "A Holiday Song for the Parochial School Children:"

No hard lessons, line by line,
No dull sums, "What's eight times nine?"
No weary copies, all blots and smears,
Raps on the knuckles, taps on the ears;
Let us sing—ha, ha!
In a ring—la, la!
Leave alone pouting, sobbing, and tears.

The Boyne Book of Poetry and Song. Edited by WILLIAM JOHNSTON, M. A. (Downpatrick: "Downshire Protestant" Office, pp. 92.) Some time ago a new comic journal was started in Paris under the quaint appellation of *La Journal Jaune*—(the *Yellow Journal*), and in the opening address the conductors, parodying the customary apology for thrusting a new thing upon the public notice, said—"For some time there has been felt the want of a *Yellow Journal*." Just in this style "The Boyne Book" begins by informing its readers that "the want of a book of Orange songs has long been felt," and that it is "to endeavour to supply this acknowledged want, the 'Boyne Book' is sent forth." To this statement are appended "Twenty reasons for being an Orangeman," by the Rev. Dr. Drew. To us in England, who know little of Orangeism beyond the fact that it is the annual cause of rows and riots throughout Ireland on the 1st of July and the 5th of November, the value of this book of songs is not so apparent. On turning over its leaves, however, we come upon some old friends with new faces, or rather disguised in Orange coats. Thus "Bonnie Dundee" appears to us in the novel form of "For God and Victoria!" And our particularly old and uproarious friend, "The Battle and the Breeze," transferred into "The Orange Flag of Victory," with no great change of diction is said to be

The flag that braved, in darkest years,
The battle and the breeze.

Further on, Uncle Toby's favourite air, "Lillibullero" is made to do duty for "Protestant Boys," and "Ye Mariners of England" are metamorphosed into

Ye Orangemen of Ireland,
Treason's dread enemies,
Whose flag has braved for centuries
The battle and the breeze.

For all this, however, we have no doubt that "The Boyne Book" will admirably subserve the purpose of its compiler, and that its ditties will long be heard through the steam of many a jug of poteen, if not over the din of many a fight.

Short Sermons for Children. By ELIZABETH RUMSEY. (Wertheim, Macintosh and Hunt.) pp. 80.—A neat little volume of neat little sermons, piously thought out, plainly expressed, and addressed to the comprehension of "babes and sucklings."

Gleanings from Gospel Story; or, New Testament Narratives Explained and Illustrated. With Preface by Rev. W. B. MACKENZIE, M.A. (Knight and Son.) pp. 180.—Our only objection to books like this is, that we cannot perceive the use of them. We admit that they are unobjectionable on the score of the intention of the author, and also in the conscientious nature of the execution. What we want to know, however, is—why, when the Gospel story is itself told with such admirable simplicity that the facts of it are perfectly clear and intelligible to all, should Mr. Mackenzie or any one else attempt to paint the lily by simplifying what is already perfectly simple?

My Earnings; or, the Story of Ann Ellison's Life, edited by the Author of "John Hampton's Home." (Knight and Son.) pp. 172.—A well-written little tale, the moral of which is, that the smallest earnings give scope for wise economy, saving, and doing good. Very fit and profitable for the perusal of the young, especially such as show a tendency towards unthriftiness.

Wallace; or, The Field of Stirling Bridge: an Historical Play, in Five Acts. By CHARLES WADDIE. (W. Kent and Co.) pp. 95.—Considering the popularity of the "Wallace Movement" in Scotland just at present, Mr. Waddie's five-act tragedy comes appropriately enough. In no other respect, however, can we find room for commendation. It is a dull, prosy, commonplace production enough, and we fear that not even a Scotch manager can be found bold enough to hazard the experiment of producing it upon the stage.

Notable Women; Stories of their Lives and Characteristics: a Book for Young Ladies. By ELLEN C. CLAYTON. No. I. "Florence Nightingale, the Soldier's Friend."—This is the first number of a little serial which ought, and we have no doubt will, find favour in the eyes for which it is written. The choice of the first heroine is a happy one, and gives a stamp to the design of the book. The facts and circumstances of Miss Nightingale's career are told in a clear and graceful style, and the printing and general getting up are of a character to make this quite a fit *bijou* for the boudoir.

The Angel of the Iceberg, and other Stories, Illustrating Great Truths. Designed chiefly for the Young.—By the Rev. JOHN TODD, D.D. (Knight and Son.) pp. 128. These elegant little allegories may be recommended for the perusal of children, first of all for the excellent lessons which they inculcate, and secondly for the very fascinating style in which they are composed. The "Angel of the Iceberg," the first of the series, is a charming parable, setting forth the wisdom of the Creator and the powerlessness of the creature. Others, such as "Capeemim the Golden-handed," and "Little Sunbeam," are highly to be commended.

Murder will Out: a Story of Real Life. By the Author of "The Colonel." (Routledge.) pp. 300.—This recent addition to Messrs. Routledge's cheap series of original tales possesses many of the qualities calculated to win the kind of popularity for which it is intended. We do not recollect the precise facts of the case upon which it is founded; but, if our recollection at all serves us, the assertion on the title-page, that this is "a story of real life," does not entirely mislead the reader. Two officers are gambling at the Cocoa-tree—one Colonel Valmore, and the other Lieutenant Grylls. The latter loses heavily, and retires with excited and irritated feelings. Returning home, he finds convincing proof of his wife's infidelity with the very man who has been winning his money, and straightway returning to the Cocoa-tree, he shoots his betrayer through the heart as he still sits at the gaming table. Grylls escapes abroad, but remorse leads him into the toils of justice, and in the end he expiates his crime upon the gallows. The story is well told, and in some parts is pathetic, without running into the vices of melodrama.

Handbook of Geological Terms and Geology. By DAVID PAGE, F.G.S. (William Blackwood and Sons, pp. 416.)—A very complete and carefully-compiled handbook of geological science, consisting of three parts:—1. Tabular Schemes of the Chemical, Mineral, Lithological and Vital Aspects of the Globe. 2. Dictionary of Terms and Technicalities employed by British and American Geologists. 3. Explanation of Specific Appellations made use of by British and Foreign Palaeontologists. Mr. Page's volume does, indeed, all that it is possible to do in the way of clearing up the mists of scientific verbiage and technicalities, and no one who possesses it need be a moment in the dark respecting the exact meaning and application of a geological term.

Meliora.—This, the seventh number of this readable little quarterly, opens with a pleasant article on "Lectures and Lecturing," in which Mr. Thackeray's Lectures on the English Humourists and the lectures delivered before the Young Men's Christian Association in Exeter Hall are curiously brought into juxtaposition. This is followed by other articles on "Mechanics' Institutes," "Tennyson and his Poetry," "The Church and the Liquor Traffic," &c.

We have also received: *Beeton's Dictionary of Universal Information.* Parts XI. and XII. (S. O. Beeton.)—A *Comprehensive History of India: Civil, Military, and Social.* Parts XIX. to XXII. (Blackie and Son.)—*Are you Prepared to Resist Invasion? A Letter addressed to the People of England* (W. Jeffs)—a question which the writer of this pamphlet gloomily answers in the negative.—The second part of the beautiful edition of *Longfellow's Prose Works*, published by Messrs. Dean and Son.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has now been at the University a week, and he may be considered to have fairly entered upon his career as an Oxonian. His resolution seems to be to conform to all the rules of his college, and to conduct himself in nearly all respects like its ordinary members. He has been a regular attendant at such of the lectures as have yet taken place, though, the term being yet so young, most of the professors only begin their labours in the course of the present week; and so far, unlike many of his less illustrious colleagues, he has "saved his fines," by being at chapel punctually at eight o'clock every morning. One difference made in his favour is, that instead of occupying rooms in college, the prince is allowed to keep up a residence in the city, a privilege that is never accorded to any but royal undergraduates. When the late Marquis of Waterford was at Christ Church (the Prince's *Alma Mater*) he made great efforts to secure a similar concession, but in vain; and ordinary undergraduates are refused even to be allowed to take lodgings out of the college until they have matriculated at least one term. Any day the Prince may be seen walking along the streets in his cap and gown, almost unattended, strolling in the quadrangle of Christ Church with his brother undergraduates, among whom he is very popular; and he seems equally disposed to submit to college discipline, and to bear his share in college sports. He seems inclined too to give his patronage to city entertainments. Mr. Charles Dickens gave readings at the Town Hall on Monday and yesterday evenings, and at the first reading ("The Christmas Carol" and the Trial from "Pickwick") the Prince and his suite were present. On his attaining his eighteenth year on the 9th proximo, the event will be celebrated in Oxford with great rejoicings. The Prince will remain at Oxford for nine months, and before his departure the beautiful new museum in the parks will be opened by the Queen in person. In the same week the commemoration will be held, when His Royal Highness will probably be admitted to the honorary degree of D.C.L.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

A HISTORY OF DANCING.

Histoire Anecdote et Pittoresque de la Danse. Par F. FERTIAULT.
Paris: Aubry. London: Trübner and Co.

HOW MANY THINGS IN MODERN DAYS are associated with the idea of frivolity which originally had the deepest and most sacred significance! How much has degenerated into mere amusement which of old was a religious or symbolical act! From the low and lascivious shapes that Dancing has assumed, and tends still farther to assume, it is not astonishing that many worthy people denounce it, who do not suspect that it is the sister of Poetry, of Music, and of Philosophy, quite as much as the daughter of Joy. A work of the most varied erudition and of the richest suggestiveness might be written on Dancing, in which conspicuous attention would be given to the relations of Dancing to Worship and War. Meanwhile we have here from M. Fertiault a lively and entertaining volume. The French are a nation of dancing-masters rather than of dancers. We must therefore be satisfied if M. Fertiault does not go much beyond the dancing-master's view of the subject. His history is certainly anecdotal: why it should be called picturesque we have not been able to discover. The book is sufficiently good in itself to dispense with a pompous and inaccurate title.

Many scraps of information are singular enough, and will probably be new to most English readers. Will the famous hero of Lepanto, Don Juan of Austria, sink in their estimation when they learn that when viceroy of the Low Countries he set out by post from Brussels and arrived incognito at Paris, expressly for the purpose of seeing in a minuet Margaret of Burgundy, who was reputed the best dancer in Europe. The Council of Trent has rather a solemn sound; but they who were gathered together to fix the faith of Christendom could not have been such dull dogs, such bad fellows, after all. The Council ended with a grand mass, a grander banquet, and a ball, which was opened by the Cardinal Hercules of Mantua, and at which kings and cardinals and bishops danced gallantly with the German, Italian, and Spanish ladies who had been invited. It would no doubt put many of our theologians into a sweeter temper if synods, general assemblies, convocations, always terminated in the same fashion. There would often be less bigotry in the head if there was more vivacity in the feet, which would keep the heart warm and save the humours from stagnating.

Nevertheless, there must be some natural appetite for pleasure, if pleasure is to exert a truly genial empire. That appetite must have been somewhat feeble in Richelieu, who got up a preposterous ballet wherein the world was personified, with Mount Olympus for a head-dress and a map for a garment. France being represented on the breast, Germany further down, Italy on one of the arms, Spain on one of the legs, while the unknown regions were exiled to the back. Sully, though a grave statesman, knew how to unbend without effort. More than eighty ballets were performed at the court of Henry IV. in less than twenty years. In these fêtes Sully was not ashamed to take a leading part. Once, when Henry and his Minister were in Bearn, the King's sister devoted herself gaily and zealously to teach Sully the step of a new ballet. Spite of Sully's goodwill, the nimble Palmerston, who always reminds us of the dancing-master, would probably have been an apter pupil. One of the ballets at Henry IV.'s court was unpleasantly interrupted by the news that Amiens had been taken by the Spaniards. Henry cried that he had been dancing like a King of France, and that he must now fight like a King of Navarre. Then turning to the fair Gabrielle, he said that he must change his arms, mount on horseback, and begin another war than that of festive delights. Henry really could fight as well as dance, though his glory as soldier and as monarch is rather dimmer than it was.

His grandson, Louis XIV., was more a dancer than a fighter, except by deputy. It is consoling to be informed that Louis was the most perfect dancer in France, for dancing was the only thing in which he excelled, let lying and idiotic flattery babble what it may. In 1661, when he was preparing by a youth of debauchery for an old age of humbug and hypocrisy, he founded the Academy of Dancing, consisting of thirteen distinguished performers—himself, we suppose, included. The favourite dance of the potentate of the periwig was the *Courante*, so called from its slow and majestic movements to and fro. Probably slow enough, but not at all majestic, must have been the ballet of the *Goutteux*, got up in 1630 by the Duke de Nemours, who, gouty himself, figured in it seated on a chair, beating time with his stick. Dances have sometimes been classified as sacred, profane, and funeral. What more funeral than this ballet, emblem of a society which cannot march, but tries to be lively, and which is doomed the moment robust men rise, who have no mercy on maimed epicures! Sickliness and decrepitude, however, have always marked French dancing, even when there was no Duke de Nemours unintentionally to caricature it. Dancing, to be healthy, and therefore holy, must be national and popular; but dancing in France has always been a courtly diversion, extending downwards. It has shared the fate of everything French: it has been enslaved by the despotism of an excessive centrality, and has thus had no life in itself, no characteristic

features. That which influenced so much else in France seems also to have influenced dancing—the social sway of Catherine de Medicis. It was the maxim of this bad Italian woman, that to govern we must corrupt, and Dancing was simply one of her diplomatic agents. In the ballet of *Circe and her Nymphs*, in which she and hosts of princes and princesses and of noble lords and ladies appeared, and the representation of which lasted from ten o'clock at night till four in the morning, was not she truly the Circe who enchanted that she might degrade and destroy? She and her Italian compatriots—the fiddler Balthazarini in the foremost rank—immensely improved dancing in France as an art; but she and they added other arts, which converted dancing into the most fatal licentiousness. If, in the fierce whirl of the nocturnal fête, where men were dressed as women and women as men, and where there was nothing to cover the panting bosom of France's proud patrician daughters but their wildly-flowing hair, her own sons were the maddest and hottest enveloped, so much the gladder smiled the Circe of Machiavellianism. Of the dances which the Medicean Circe imported or improved one was the *Pavane*, from *pavo*, a peacock—a Spanish dance, in which the male dancers, with sword and mantle, and the female dancers, in long and heavy robes, imitated the rainbow wheel of the gorgeous bird. No doubt, from the smallness of the head, the magnificence of the dress, and the starriness of radiant motion, the imitation was perfect. The *Pavane* had a rival in the *Sarabande*, a dance also of Spanish origin, of which Des Yveteaux was so passionately fond, that, when dying at Paris at the age of more than eighty, he ordered an air of this dance to be played, that, as he said, his soul might pass away in more ecstatic peacefulness. Those are not necessarily frivolous who thus meet death.

Lablache, whose rich and overflowing nature came perhaps more from his Irish mother than from his French father or from the sun of Naples, after receiving the last religious succours from a former professional comrade who had turned Dominican, expired while humming an English song, which had twined itself more lovingly round the tenderest fibres of his heart than that brilliant music wherewith he had conquered the applause of every capital in Europe. They who abound in that large humanity, which is the best basis of divinest piety, will see a more beautiful adoration in Lablache's rejoicing evermore than in the most puritanic prayer. Ever may our lips abhor, in dancing and in all things, the cup of Circean abominations which a Catherine de Medicis would administer. But when the puritans oppose dancing as a godless recreation, they should ponder such facts as the following:—*Chorus* and *choir* are identical, and *chorus* comes from the Greek verb "to rejoice;" but here the first idea of rejoicing was rather that the song was the accompaniment of the dance than the dance of the song. In accordance herewith, the Christian worship welcomed the dances of actors. The churches were so arranged that dancers could be introduced within their walls. The species of theatre which was reserved for them was called the *choir*, or dancing place. The custom has been abolished, but the name has remained.

The Romans, as long as they were truly Romans, were not, like the Greeks, a dancing people. They had few dances of their own; and such as were chiefly their own were of a martial character. That such dances could make no pretensions to grace, rhythm, and symmetry is clearly proved by the circumstance that the Latin word signifying to dance meant originally to leap; to bound, to caper, to skip in wild, barbarous, fantastic fashion. The priests of Mars were literally jumpers—a name which they strove to merit as they bore along in procession the sacred ancilia, their fierce steps and fiercer singing resonant to the clangour of the bucklers. The jumper-in-chief had a fitting name—*Presul*.

A great scholar avers that the Christian bishops were called *Presules*, because on days of solemn festivities they led the dancing in the churches. As everything external in the early Christian worship had a heathen origin, and as the Roman Catholic system, as distinguished from the doctrine of Christ and his Apostles, is merely a transformed heathenism, this conjecture is by no means absurd. Even if there had been no heathen contact or influence, Mosaism would have countenanced Christianity in the consecration of dancing. Frequently is dancing accompanied by music, especially by the sound of the timbrel, mentioned in the Old Testament. The Oriental does not dance. Indolently, his eyes hungering with desire, he gazes at the poor creatures who pollute and cheapen dancing into a vile trade—the minister of voluptuousness. With the Hebrews it was altogether otherwise. They neither in this matter showed the Eastern prejudice nor the Eastern defilement. It results from many passages, as has been observed by a Hebrew scholar, Munk, who is impartial as he is able, and whom for a moment we shall be glad to quote or paraphrase or complete—it results that the Hebrews executed their dances with much pomp in public rejoicings, and that the dances had a grave character which served to exalt while enlivening the splendour of public festivals. The matrons the most venerable, the young maidens the most honourable, danced publicly on the most solemn occasions, especially on the triumphal return of victorious

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warriors, or when sharing in other patriotic ceremonies. Even the men, though men of the East, did not think that they were compromising their dignity when taking part in these demonstrations of public delight, as we see by the example of David, who danced in a religious procession when the Holy Ark was conveyed to Jerusalem. The Hebrew name of dancing, honestly interpreted, seems to indicate a circular movement, or groups moving in a circle; and when we are informed that David danced before the Lord with all his might there is probably an allusion to a pantomime of a very animated kind. The circular dance, if such it was, would symbolise that stupendous march and music of the spheres which every ancient religion strove in its ritual to picture and praise, and to which Hebraism aimed to give an ethical character. Pan, the personification of the Universe, had among his innumerable names that of Pan the dancer. The ancient Indians at dawn adored the sun by dancing, imitating the dance of the God. As if pointing to something more mysterious and sublime than the march and music of the spheres, was the labyrinthine dance at Gnosus in Crete; and as if recalling that infinite Chaos out of which the infinite Cosmos had sprung, were the wild dances of the Phrygian priests. If legislators saw in dancing a civilising power, if poets celebrated it, if philosophers deemed it not unworthy of their wisest thoughts, it was because it had been the first attempt of men to hymn, by harmonious motion, that immutable order which is but another name for eternal beauty. There was also the glowing image of a well-regulated commonwealth, where everything had its pith, and place, and play, and of the melodious development of the faculties in each individual. If Plato revered dancing, a deeper than Plato—Pythagoras—had revered it more; and Pythagoras merely echoed those who were deeper even than he—the Orphic singers and sages; and they but repeated what had been speaking eloquently and grandly for thousands of years through religious ceremonies.

Through the Greeks dancing lost much of its religious import, but compensated by a huge increase of poetical and artistic interest. Still more inspiring than their martial dances must the best of their scenic dances have been. Greek tragedy was one of the world's most earnest facts, quite as earnest in its way as Hebrew prophecy, and it ought for ever to silence the calumny that the Greeks were a frivolous race. Their pantomime, their comic dance, their satirical dance

might not have been much to our taste, for the Greeks had not what the English have in unrivalled abundance, humour; but the dances accompanying the Greek tragedies must have been majestic and awful as these, must have been often terrible as that Fate, the stern loftiness, the inexorable justice of which can never be surpassed as an idea for dramatic purposes.

We see not with what propriety M. Fertiault places the scenic dances among the profane dances, as distinguished from the sacred and the funeral; as the drama played such an important part in Greek religion. And in general do our classifications—those divisions and subdivisions of which a Frenchman is so fond—apply well to ancient things? The life of antiquity was so much spontaneousness and oneness, so much flow, and growth, and bloom, that it is pity to analyse it, and more than pity to treat it in accordance with clever French methodising. The life of the moderns seems unable to fill up the vast space between frivolity and gloom, must either yell at the casino or howl at the conventicle. Consecrate common joys, these bend the knee as worshippers; denounce them, they immediately take a bestial foulness, a brutal ferocity.

When Scaliger, armed from head to foot, danced what he deemed the Pyrrhic dance before the Emperor Maximilian and his court, to their astonishment and admiration, it was perhaps the noblest feat ever accomplished by his incomparable scholarship; it was an homage to the mirth, the health, the music of creation, against which Man, the self-torturer, so incessantly sins. Let our grave friends be not so grave, and they will be the wiser; let our giddy friends be not so giddy, and they will be the wiser too; let the cheerfulness of the people be the guardian of the people's purity. Excellent persons have assailed both the opera and operatic dancing as stimulants to a morbid appetite; they would have assailed them with more effect if they had been content to let the drama, and music, and dancing, become once more potent religious agencies. The country dance—so exclusively English in its origin, as M. Fertiault himself confesses—may almost be regarded as religious from its social charm and empire. It is only a national dance which can hallow and be hallowed, and therefore we abominate those coarse and convulsionary extravagances which have recently been introduced amongst us, and which are as much the invention of French dancing-masters as crinoline is the invention of French milliners. ATTICUS.

ART, DRAMA, MUSIC, SCIENCE, &c.

ART AND ARTISTS.

TALK OF THE STUDIOS.

THE MANCHESTER PAPERS, contrasting the sale of pictures in their city with that in Liverpool, says: "The artists who have entrusted their pictures to the new exhibition in Liverpool are receiving considerable encouragement. A very large amount of money has been expended by purchasers, greatly beyond what we are doing here in Manchester. Art competition is sometimes found to be as successful in its results as commercial rivalry."

The National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery reopened to the public on Monday, when the pictures purchased at the Northwick sale, with some few other recent purchases, were exhibited for the first time. The British pictures have been arranged in the new rooms at South Kensington in chronological order.

During the week ending 22nd October 1859, the visitors at the South Kensington Museum have been as follows:—On Monday, Tuesday and Saturday (free days), 3495; on Monday and Tuesday (free evenings), 5442. On the three students' days (admission to the public, 6d.), 905; one student's evening (Wednesday), 122; total, 9964. From the opening of the museum, 1,105,642.

By permission of the Dean and Chapter, a handsome and appropriately illustrated stained glass window has just been placed in the eastern transept of Salisbury Cathedral. At the foot of it is the following inscription:—"Sacred to the memory of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the 62nd, or Wiltshire Regiment, who fell in the service of their country in the Crimean War in 1854 and 1855; this window is erected by their surviving comrades." The window, which is by Messrs. O'Connor, of 4, Berners-street, Oxford-street, is placed by the side of one which was erected as a memorial to the officers and privates of the same regiment who fell in the Sutlej campaign, in the gallant attack on the Sikh batteries at Ferozeshah, Dec. 21, 1845.

In a recent number of *Notes and Queries* it was stated that "in the possession of Mr. Archer, of the Royal Library, Weymouth, is an oil painting representing a man apparently of thirty-two years of age, or thereabouts, with small pointed beard and a moustache and large ruff. In the upper right-hand corner (facing the spectator), is written in yellow paint in an italic hand, 'W. Shakespeare.'" Referring to this statement, a correspondent of the *Dorset Chronicle*, using the signature of "Arthur Paget Cranmore," states, "I believe Mr. Archer obtained it from a family at Bath. The picture is apparently as old as Shakespeare's time. Of its authenticity I offer no opinion, but merely wish to make a note of the circumstance. I shall add, that, speaking from recollection, it has a great similarity to the Chandos portrait, but represents a younger man."

We have been much delighted with an engraving which has been submitted to us, not only on account of its inherent merit, which is great, but of the circumstances under which it has been produced, which are most extraordinary. It is called "The Forge," and both the original painting and the steel engraving are the work of Mr. James Sharples, a working smith, who has all his life been engaged in the severe labours of his craft, and who is in every sense entirely self-taught. The following account of him, which we extract from a prospectus, which accompanies the work, may not seem out of place:—"James Sharples is an operative smith at the firm of Messrs. Yates, engineers, Blackburn. He is self-taught as a painter and engraver, the only assistance he has ever had being six months' teaching in ornamental drawing at the Bury Athenæum. Although he follows his trade as smith, he has followed painting most assiduously in the

evening. Among his first efforts are "The Head of Christ," and a portrait of his own father, both life-size, and an emblem for the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Machinists, &c., his design carrying away the first prize. "The Forge" is his first attempt at engraving. The painting was his own conception, and took the evenings of nearly three years in its execution; and when finished, he got a steel plate and spent the evenings of about five more years engraving it, on a scale of four inches to the foot compared with the painting." Mr. Sharples forges the heavy wrought iron-work for steam-engines, and most of the tools which he has used for the engraving were made by himself. It may be mentioned that so uninformed was he of the modes of proceeding in common use among engravers, that he entirely neglected the use of acid, and produced every line by the graving tool alone. The work itself is really admirable. It represents the interior of the forge at a large machine shop. At a blast furnace to the left of the foreground a group of smiths are engaged in lifting a massive shaft of iron-work into the fire. Behind them are other men busily engaged in the various duties of the forge. In the background are some stalwart fellows plying the hammer with vigour and effect. So much for the materials of the picture; it needs, however, an actual inspection of it to gain the slightest idea of the admirable manner with which the intention is carried out, and with which all the details are given. Of the tools in common use in a forge not one, we should imagine, is forgotten; and all are drawn with a fidelity which is perfectly astonishing. The drawing of the groups is vigorous and effective; and the expression given to the faces of the men betrays artistic qualities of a very high order. To this it may be added, that Mr. Sharples has published his work, which, judging from the market price of engravings nowadays, we should be inclined to call ridiculously cheap.

Mr. Ruskin has published the following letter, pronouncing strongly against the proposal to have the Turner Gallery lighted with gas:—"At the time of my departure for the Continent some months ago, I had heard it was proposed to light the Turner Gallery, at Kensington, with gas, but I attached no importance to the rumour, feeling assured that a commission would be appointed on the subject, and that its decision would be averse to the mode of exhibition suggested. Such a commission has, I find, been appointed, and has, contrary to my expectation, approved and confirmed the plan of lighting proposed. It would be the merest presumption in me to expect weight to be attached to any opinion of mine, opposed to that of any one of the gentlemen who formed the commission; but as I was officially employed in some of the operations connected with the arrangement of the Turner Gallery at Marlborough House, and as it might therefore be supposed by the public that I at least concurred in recommending the measures now taken for the exhibition of the Turner pictures in the evening at Kensington, I must beg your permission to state in your columns that I take no share in the responsibility of lighting the pictures either of Reynolds or Turner with gas; that, on the contrary, my experience would lead me to apprehend serious injury to those pictures from such a measure; and that it is with profound regret that I have heard of its adoption. I specify the pictures of Reynolds and Turner, because the combinations of colouring material employed by both these painters are various, and to some extent unknown; and also because the body of their colours shows peculiar liability to crack and to detach itself from the canvas. I am glad to be able to bear testimony to the fitness of the gallery at Kensington, as far as could be expected under the circumstances, for the exhibition of the Turner pictures by daylight, as well as to the excellence of Mr. Wornum's chronological arrangement of them in the three principal rooms."

The obituary includes a notice of the death of Mr. Francis Graves, of Pall-mall. He was well known in this country and on the Continent, as one of the best judges of engravings, both ancient and modern. His knowledge of English and foreign portraits, and his familiarity with every fact of their history, and the lives of their originals, was almost unrivalled. During upwards of thirty years several of the finest collections in England, and especially that of the late Lord Northwick, were formed under his superintendence; and to him the print-room of the British Museum is indebted for many of its most curious prints and drawings. He was also an admirable judge of paintings, as far as historical portraits are concerned, and several of the most interesting pictures in the recently-established National Portrait Gallery had passed through his hands. He was of kind and amiable manners, always ready to communicate any information he possessed, and his death will be sincerely regretted.

According to the American papers, the New Yorkers have been seized with a severe fit of modesty *à propos* of some "indecent" stereoscopic pictures said to have been imported from England. "The Federal law prohibits the importation of anything obscene or indecent. All these pictures are imported, most of them from England, and they constitute nearly one-eighth of all the stereoscopic groups sold in this country. The pictures placed before the United States District Court yesterday were seized by the Custom-house officers as indecent, and the question was raised as to what constituted indecency in a stereoscopic picture. The officials object to liberal exhibitions of long hosiery, and a great mass of testimony was taken as to what constitutes indecency. One witness had thought they were indelicate, nearly as much so as the ballet; he would not take his children to see either. Most of the dealers testified that they had taken no pains to conceal this style of pictures, that ladies, as well as gentlemen, examined and bought them, and that nothing was said by anybody as to their decency or indecency. The importer in this case had bought of two English houses, both of which he had, in his order, cautioned against sending him anything immodest. The case is still pending."

It has been determined to found a gallery in Paris for copies of famous works of art not in France, and it is thought that this has become all the more desirable from the rapid decay of the best frescoes in Italy.

M. Varni, the sculptor, presented to King Victor Emmanuel, at Genoa, a bust in marble of the Princess Clothilde, which is said to be of the most exquisite workmanship. The King received the present with great satisfaction, and invited the statuary to dine at the royal table.

A foreign correspondent writes: "The day before yesterday the statue of another German of European renown was unveiled at Stendal, in the Allmark, the original nucleus of the province of Brandenburg. The lovers of the history of art will divine at once that I am alluding to the great Winckelmann, the only man of note who ever proceeded from the ancient but decayed borough of Stendal (Stonedale, as the name of the Anglo-Saxon place would appear in its English dress). The statue, which was erected by the exertions of a Berlin committee, is a work of the late sculptor Wichman, seven feet high, and of that tawny-coloured bronze for which the Munich works of art are so justly famous. The great man—to whom the world is indebted for the right appreciation of Greek and Roman art, and by whose efforts, after the intervening barbarism of the middle ages, sculpture lived again in its old splendour, and who virtually was the making of Rauch, Thorwaldsen, Canova, and other great modern sculptors—is represented attired in an old-fashioned cloak of the last century; his right hand, with a pencil in it, slightly raised; and the head eagerly stretching forward in an attitude of close observation. At his side stands an antique column, crowned with a Greek bust. The whole artistic fraternity of Berlin made a pilgrimage to Stendal on the day of the inauguration, but the attendance of general visitors was scant and insignificant."

A correspondent of the *Morning Star*, using the signature of "R. M. Morrell," supplies some interesting information as to the experiment of opening the Berlin Museum and Picture Gallery on Sunday. "At the close of last year the newspapers announced that, a literary lady of Berlin having interceded with the Prince Regent of Prussia for the opening of the Berlin Museum to the working classes of that city on Sunday, the same was to be conceded on and after Christmas; and as the experiment of opening such an institution in the heart of a Protestant capital was interesting to myself, and doubtless to many others, I have watched in vain for particulars, and, therefore, applied in the first instance to the Prussian ambassador, and received the following reply: 'Count Bernstorff presents his compliments to Mr. Morrell, and begs to say that he has no official account of the opening of the Berlin Museum on Sunday; but from the Berlin papers he learns that large numbers have availed themselves of the privilege conceded.' I next applied, through a friend, to the lady through whose exertions the Museum was opened—Madame Fanny Lewald Slahr—and the following is a translation of the chief points of her reply: 'The Museum and Picture Gallery in Berlin are open on Sunday, between the hours of twelve and two. At first the rooms were inconveniently crowded, and many had to go away without gaining admittance, so great was the concourse of visitors; not the slightest injury, however, was done to the objects of art, and in several instances, where persons unacquainted with the rules of such places made a movement to touch the pictures, they were prevented from doing so by others near them. After the novelty ceased, the crowds diminished; but the number of visitors continued large, the behaviour of the people excellent, and their appreciation of the privilege granted them very great. The curators of the establishments express themselves in high terms of the satisfactory results of the measure. It has also been observed that since the museums have been open on Sunday the number of visitors on week days has very largely increased.'"

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

IN ADDITION TO THE INTRINSIC FASCINATIONS of a symphony by Haydn and a cantata by Dr. Sterndale Bennett, announced by the directors of the Crystal Palace for the 22nd inst., the charm of being heard there for the first time, produced no inconsiderable effect on the concert-going public. Haydn's military symphony is nowadays rarely introduced, although, in point of merit, it deserves to be as often resuscitated as many other instrumental compositions are, to which importance is attached. Nobody can mistake its authorship. Haydn possessed an inexhaustible fancy and a rich vein of melody, as well as great scholarly acquirements. Even in the present era of musical science, there is in the whole of this symphony a fine and instructive contrast to the more laboured productions which pass muster as great classic achievements. The band under Mr. Manns played it without fault or flaw, and the audience manifested a corresponding pleasure. Miss Stabbach seems to be ardently attached to a very mediocre song—"Over the Sea;" we miss it only at wide intervals. The audience complimented the singer and sang with "faint praise." Mr. Weiss failed in eliciting the usual *encore* in Mendelssohn's rollicking air from the "Son and Stranger," although he evidently put forth his best energies to make the "roamer" tell. Mozart's overture to "Zauberflöte" wound up the first portion of the entertainment. In part second Mr. Benedict received the *bâton* from Mr. Manns to conduct the "May Queen"—not that the former was

incompetent to the task, but because the 200 voices forming the chorus were selected from the Vocal Association—a society that owes its existence chiefly to Mr. Benedict. Time has stamped Dr. Bennett's pastoral with the seal of general favour; but, truth to speak, the May Queen's garland received no additional charms from the performance of Saturday. In the opening chorus, "Wake with a smile, O month of May," the executants were unsteady in the matter of time, and faulty in intonation; the semichorus, expressive of sympathy with the slighted swain, very unsympathetic—and the chorus "With a laugh as we go round," usually so light, tripping, and animated as to be twice sung, was almost entirely devoid of the spirit of rustic gaiety. In other words, the choruses were not satisfactory. Nor can much praise be awarded to the principals. Mr. Cummings sang the tenor music very ineffectively. Admitting that the part of the "distracted lover" is not a very taking one, Mr. Cummings appeared to have but a faint idea of the proper mode of bringing the resources at command to bear upon it advantageously. Miss Stabbach, as the Queen of May, is quite at home. She knows the music thoroughly, and usually throws into it a warmth of feeling, and a grace, evidencing a heart thoroughly set on doing justice both to self and author. Miss Rae assumed the Queen of England, and the impression made on us was, that the music was unsuited to her. Mr. Weiss, as Robin Hood, gave the quaint characteristic song, "Tis jolly to hunt in the bright moonlight," in his very best style; but the audience seemed to have sunk into such a state of torpor that even the energy thrown into this famous hunting strain failed to move them. It is to be hoped that ere long Dr. Bennett's pastoral will be again introduced in a more efficient manner, as many persons left the music-room with an impression adverse to the true merits of the composition. On Tuesday the entertainments were varied to meet the requirements of the anniversary of the battle of Balaklava. The music, chiefly of a martial character, was performed principally by portions of regimental bands, and, as if these were not sufficient to impress the public with the peculiarities of the day, Mr. Westbrook brought the powers of the great organ into play, so that march, chorus, and "the stormy music of the drum," kept up an incessant din from noon till sunset.

The unwavering adherence to "Dinorah" at the Royal Italian Opera House reduces the critic's office to a sinecure. How many weeks longer the bills are to remain unaltered we have not the secret of knowing; certain it is that the production of the long-promised English operas may be calculated upon in the far-off future.

Handel's oratorio, "Israel in Egypt," was performed on Wednesday evening at St. James's Hall, under the direction of Dr. Wylde. With all but the initiated classes this stupendous work has till recently been very much undervalued. The frequent attempts made to court general appreciation by the interpolation of airs and duets have failed, while at the same time they have served to show the incompetency of those who meddled with the original plan to comprehend it. The solo work is comparatively trifling, and the pieces for principals are scattered but thinly throughout the oratorio; but it is rich in choruses of the loftiest character, on whose magnificent proportions their illustrious architect has lavished the boundless resources of his mighty mind. Any and every society for the proper performance of such musical works as these, on the "popular price" scale, is certainly entitled to the warmest support. It commands itself to the musical world generally, but to that portion of it in particular whose means preclude them from attending meetings where weighty fees are demanded. A considerable improvement manifested itself in the chorus of Wednesday last, although it must be confessed that those of "Israel in Egypt" are far more difficult than those of "Messiah" or "Creation," previously introduced. Here and there were symptoms of unsteadiness and a wavering intonation, which careful rehearsals will doubtlessly rectify before the oratorio is repeated. We adduce the opening chorus in C minor, "And the children of Israel sighed," the fugue in G minor, "They loathed to drink of the river," and the choral recitative "He sent a thick darkness," as examples. On the other hand, many were given with a precision and force that left nothing to be desired. "He rebuked the Red Sea," and its pendant, "He led them through the deep," exhibited the choral force to great advantage. Weighing faults against excellences, it was gratifying to find a preponderance in favour of the latter. Madame Rudersdorf, Miss Laura Baxter, Miss De Villar, Mr. George Perren, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Whitehouse, were the principals engaged. Mr. Perren, in the great tenor song "The enemy said," elicited such general approbation that he was necessitated to repeat it. This sin against good taste we hope soon to see numbered with the past. An attempt was likewise made for a rehearsing of the famed bass duet "The Lord is a man of war," but this could not be tolerated; once was quite enough, considering the nature and quality of the voices provided to illustrate it. The beautiful duet for contralto and tenor (Mr. Perren and Miss Baxter), "Thou in thy mercy," and the air "Thou didst blow" (Madame Rudersdorf), were not only admirable reliefs to the colossal choruses which hemmed them in, but they served likewise to display to advantage the vocal attributes of the *artistes* to whom they were entrusted. The band, though not numerically strong, was a very compact one, and, with Mr. Chipp at the organ, there was quite force enough for a very effective performance of a very grand and glorious epic.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

WE REGRET TO HAVE TO RECORD the death of Mr. Charles Didier, an esteemed member of the old Covent Garden Company, whose connection with the theatrical profession extended over a period of more than forty years. The deceased was the brother of Mrs. Faucit.

Mr. Hullah announces that during the coming series of his concerts at St. Martin's Hall, London, he will produce the "Cecilian Mass" of M. Gounod, and a new oratorio, "John the Baptist," by Herr Hager, of Vienna.

A prospectus is abroad, the object of which is to do honour to Mr. Cipriani Potter, on his retirement from the Presidency of the Royal Academy of Music, by founding a Scholarship there, which is to bear his name.

On Wednesday night, Mr. George Melville made his *début* at the Princess's Theatre in the part of *Hamlet*. A handsome person and a good voice appear to be the principal points in his favour.

It is stated that at the Strand Theatre the MS. of a new drama has been accepted, sent to the manager, it is said, from a primitive part of Yorkshire, where it had been written by a lady in no way connected with literature.

On Monday night, at the Haymarket Theatre, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews reappeared in "The Road to Ruin" and "Paul Pry," in the presence of a very numerous audience.

On Monday night, Mr. Shepherd, of the Surrey Theatre, made his first appearance in a drama founded on Sir E. B. Lytton's last novel, "What will he Do with It?" The drama employs all the strength of the company.

On Monday night, an adaptation of the French vaudeville entitled "La Chatte métamorphosée en Femme," was produced at the Princess's Theatre, under the title of "Puss." It has been produced for the purpose of enabling Miss Louisa Keeley to appear in a part already made celebrated by the acting of Mlle. Jenny Vertpré.

The theatre at Canterbury having been bought up by a person who refuses to allow it to be used as a theatre, the city council have agreed to give a site at the corner of the market, on a lease at a nominal rent, in order that a glass and iron building be erected thereon for theatrical and other purposes. The cricketers and others have promised to subscribe between 1000*l.* and 2000*l.*, the citizens to provide the remainder of the sum of upwards of 2000*l.* required for the erection of the building, which will occupy eighty square feet of ground, and accommodate 1050 persons. The structure will be 117 feet by 71, and painted like the first exhibition building.

The *Express* says that M. Julien has been released from his pecuniary embarrassments in Paris. He attributes his ruin to the "scorpions" of the legal profession in London, and to certain music speculators who have fattened on his former success. During the twenty years that Julien reigned as the monarch of the famed popular concerts, he acknowledges to have received the enormous sum of 200,000*l.* in England and America. He has lately refused offers to return to London to preside over entertainments of a similar character, and is now busily engaged in writing his "Life and Times among the English." The sums of money paid to lawyers and managers of his concerts, when explained on a late occasion before the tribunal at his examination to obtain release from bankruptcy, enlisted the sympathy of the French court.

The *Leamington Courier*, determined to be foremost in the field, and with an eye particularly wide open to the benefit of the neighbourhood, suggests the celebration of the ter-centenary anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday on the 23rd of April, 1864. Stratford-upon-Avon (says this local organ) is the only locality where such a festival could fittingly be held. The question that at once presents itself to us is—why have it at all? The annual celebration of the bard's birthday attracts down to the classic locality all those earnest admirers who are desirous of doing honour to his names. The experiment of a festival in 1864 would only be to attempt something on a larger scale; and, bearing in mind the monstrous and absurd *fiasco* which took place in Garrick's time, we are inclined to hope that this hint will not be acted upon.

The Crystal Palace Directors, ever on the look-out for an opportunity of "improving" the occasion, celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Battle of Balacava on Tuesday last; when, in spite of the very inclement state of the weather, 4610 visitors attended, among whom were a large number of officers and men of the Grenadier, Coldstream, and Scotch Fusilier Guards, nearly every one bearing his Crimean and Turkish medals. There were also a large number of the Royal Artillery. The amusements of the day commenced at half-past twelve o'clock, when a concert was given by the company's band in the concert-room near the central transept. After this a contest of athletic games took place, not, as had been intended, in the open grounds, but in the centre transept. The aqueous attractions of the outer fountains and the ascent of Mr. Coxwell's balloon did not excite much attention—a circumstance which, considering the extremely unsatisfactory state of the weather, is not to be wondered at.

A correspondent of the *London Daily Guide*, describing how managers are cheated, says: "It not unfrequently occurs, too, that both management and money-takers get cheated by a certain class of the public. All play-goers know that upon quitting the theatre before the performances are over, they are beset by little boys for their 'pass-outs,' but these young gentlemen rarely go in with their unpurchased checks. Some check-takers have remarkable tact in remembering faces and persons. They sometimes refuse checks to those who have any peculiarity about them by which they may recognise them again, such as a curiously shaped hat, a remarkably cut coat, or a characteristic walk. They don't give checks to public characters, as soldiers, dustmen, niggers, policemen, servants in livery, or foreigners in Turkish caps or wide-awakes. To all such individuals the check-taker asks, 'Coming back, sir?' if answered in the affirmative, reply, 'Know yer again, sir.' Little boys, and large boys too, sometimes manage to ascertain the kind of check to be used on some particular evening (the style is changed every night); they will get up duplicates and enter with them, or sell them outside. This was detected by placing little private marks in an obscure corner of each check given out, so that the first forged one received was detained, and its presenter handed over to the nearest constable. At a provincial theatre in which I once officiated, some young scoundrels obtained access to the treasury in the daytime, and stole from the bag labelled for that evening a quantity of pit checks. These they sold outside the theatre at half-price. The money was consequently found to differ greatly from the checks received, and the pit, which had been during the past week very ill attended, was found to be disproportionately full. This made the manager suspect that the fraud was not wholly mine, so he did not discharge me just then. A week had elapsed, and the cause was not discovered, and the manager began to entertain doubts of my honesty, when, luckily, by the marking system, the trick was found out."

A contemporary gives an interesting account of the musical career of the late Marquis of Westmoreland. He was not only the founder of the Royal Academy of Music, but it was almost exclusively owing to his untiring exertions that the institution has been maintained. But for his active superintendence the academy would have long ceased to exist. The late Lord commenced his musical studies when a mere boy, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, followed them up, having Dr. Hagne, the Professor of Music, as his master. He subsequently studied under Zeidler and Mayseder, in Germany, and Signor Platone, in Italy. In 1822, thus fortified as a practical musician and enthusiastic amateur, his Lordship (when Lord Burghersh) first promulgated the notion of founding an academy of music in this country, and it is a fact, which an inspection of the books, minutes, and accounts of the institution will establish beyond a doubt, that so long as Lord Westmoreland was resident in London the academy flourished, but the moment that his lordship's diplomatic services were put in requisition abroad, then the academy, deprived of his care and attention, got into difficulties. After Lord Westmoreland's return from his last embassy at Vienna the funds of the academy increased, and he was gradually improving the system of education. That Lord Westmoreland's efforts were duly appreciated by the professor and students of the Royal Academy of Music the correspondence on the minutes sets beyond a doubt. We find amongst the signatures of addresses to his lordship, who is styled "the founder and best friend" of the academy, the names of Sterndale Bennett, W. Dorrell, T. M. Mudie, C. Lucas (the present principal), W. H. Holmes, Henry Blagrove, W. L. Phillips, E. W. Thomas, H. B. Richards, Cipriani Potter (the late principal), G. A. Macfarren, F. B. Jewson, Moscheles, Mrs. Anderson, Sir George Smart, John Goss, C. Neate, &c. These living professors, eminent as exponents, distinguished as composers, all testify to their high appreciation of the institution which, to cite their own words, "your Lordship, as founder and promoter, with your sound judgment, has raised to that pitch of excellence as to rival similar institutions in Europe." We might add to the above list of names those of musicians now no more—such as Sir Henry Bishop, François Cramer, Madame Dulcken, Signor Negri, Lindley, &c., but it would be mere waste of space to cite additional testimonials, and it would not have been necessary to refer to the published opinions of the leading men of the day in the musical profession, but for the bitter and uncompromising hostility displayed latterly against the academy, and, above all, its distinguished founder, whose great offence was being a composer. Of his Lordship's activity as a musical writer, the annexed list of his compositions is

sufficient proof:—Seven operas, viz., "Bajazet," "Fedra," "Il Torno," "L'Eroe de Lancastro," "Catherine," "Il Ratto di Proserpina," "Lo Scompioglio Teatrale; eight cantatas on Metastasio's and Shakespeare's words; Grand Mass for full orchestra, solo parts and chorus; Cathedral Service, "Magnificat," four hymns, two anthems, a requiem, eight madrigals, twelve canons, numerous canzonets, a battle symphony; besides three symphonies, waltzes, detached airs, marches, &c. Many of the above works were performed in Vienna, Berlin, Florence, and London, at theatres, and at concerts public and private. That his Lordship was a careful and conscientious musician, with a facile flow of melodious imagery, even the most determined opponents of aristocratic amateurs have not denied; but the works had the unpardonable fault of being written by a lord, and "what business has a lord to be a musician?"—as one of the critics (?) wrote of the last academy concert, at which some of his Lordship's works were performed—"he may be a diplomatist, but he cannot be a composer. Sterndale Bennett is a composer, but he could not be a diplomatist!" Such was the style of opposition adopted; but even assuming that this musical criticism, such as it is, was based on truth, and that Lord Westmoreland was not to be regarded as a composer, what had that to do with his indefatigable labours to promote the interests of the Royal Academy of Music? His purse was always open on its behalf. He paid out of his own pocket for the tuition of many pupils, who have since achieved distinction; and if a large attendance of nobility and gentry could be secured at the concerts, the programmes of which included some of the Earl of Westmoreland's works, ought not the permanent benefit thus accruing to the academy to have softened the asperities of criticism? The late Earl's social position enabled him, indeed, to benefit materially the funds of the institution. His Lordship endeavoured in vain to induce Government to bestow a grant on the Academy of Music. Lord Westmoreland was the first in the field to secure the state recognition of music. Out of gratitude for the past, the noble amateur might have been left quiet in the winter of his days, the very last of which were devoted to his pet academy. Almost the final instructions on his death-bed, at Apethorpe, were given by the noble Lord in behalf of the institution.

The *Glasgow Citizen* says: "It is proposed to get up a musical festival in this city about the end of January next. The scheme has originated with the Glasgow Choral Union; and under the auspices of an ample list of patrons, and with the aid of an influential and energetic body of acting stewards, it is likely to be carried out with spirit. As any profits which may accrue are to be devoted to two of our most useful public charities—the Royal Infirmary and the Asylum for the Blind—the festival will appeal to the benevolent as well as to the musical feelings of the public. Fashion will no doubt lend its influence and contribute to render the undertaking successful."

Blondin, the acrobat, is still at Niagara Falls, where he has purchased some real estate, intending to make his residence there for the future. He is said to have made some 8000 dollars by his exploits during the past season.

M. Edouard Thierry has been nominated the director of the Théâtre Français.

Mlle. Bressant, the daughter of Bressant, the world-famous "gentleman" of the Théâtre Français, has made her *début* at the Vaudeville, in Paris. She has all the grace of an accomplished lady, and is pronounced as the Rachel of high comedy.

A Paris correspondent says: The theatrical season is now just opening, and the "winter swallows," as the French dub roasted chestnuts, are reappearing on the boards. The Théâtre Français announces a new five act piece by Th. Léon Laya, and a new piece in one act by M. H. Barrière, for the present week. Dumas *filii* new play, now being rehearsed at the Gymnase, is, however, the point of greatest attraction; it is called the "Prodigal Father," and is said to be full of piquant *filial* reminiscences. The cast will be very strong, including Lafont, Dupuis, Rose Chéri, and both the charming *jeunes ingénues* Mlles. Delaporte and Victoria. Another piece, a five act comedy in verse, by M. Granier de Cassagnac, creates expected amusement of a different kind. One of the Opposition papers asks whether M. Grandguillot will help M. Cassagnac. The force of this joke is that M. Grandguillot is the heavy man on the *Constitutionnel*. There is lead in the very sound.

The *Musical Gazette*, giving an account of the preparations for a "Schiller Festival" at Paris, says: "The committee appointed by the German residents, of all classes, in Paris, to determine on the proper mode of celebrating the hundredth anniversary of Schiller's birth, which will fall on the 10th of November next, have issued their programme. The festival will be held on the evening of the 10th of November, in the Cirque de l'Impératrice, in the Champs-Élysées. The Cirque will be brilliantly lighted and decorated for the occasion. M. Meyerbeer has not only assisted the committee with his advice, but promised them two pieces of music composed expressly for the festival. Herr Ludwig Pfau has written an appropriate poem to one of them. Besides the above, Schiller's 'Festgesang an die Künstler,' set to music by Mendelssohn, and the concluding movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, with choruses (Schiller's 'Freude, schöner Götterfunken'), will be performed. A speech will be delivered by Dr. Ludwig Kalisch. The musical arrangements will be under the direction of M. Pasdeloup, director of the Société des Jeunes Artistes du Conservatoire. The orchestra will consist of 150 members. The vocal solos will be executed by some of the first German vocalists in Paris, and the choruses by the German and Swiss Gesangsvereins established there. The musical and literary entertainments will be followed by a banquet. The price of the tickets to the performance is fixed at 10*fr.* for the first places, 5*fr.* for the second, and 2*fr.* for the third. The profits will be devoted to some charitable and national German purpose in Paris. The committee is composed as follows: Dr. Otterburg, president; Bauer, G. Brandus, vice-presidents; Fr. Klincksieck, Ed. Simon, secretary; Neuhaus, treasurer. Abel, Becker, Behmer, Chilly, Dr. Phil. Christensen, Deutsch, Gattiger, Dr. Phil. Grönlund, Dr. Phil. Hess, Hoffmann, J. E. Horn, Hoth, Dr. Phil. Kalisch, Karpeles, Krauss, Kugelmann, Lantz, Maho, Dr. Med. Meding, Müller, Jul. Offenbach, L. Pfeu, Reich, Riedel, Sauerheimer, Schneider, Schüler, Dr. Phil. Sydow, Weber, Weychand, Wihl. England, determined not to be behind-hand, has already projected a grand festival in honour of the poet, to be held next month at the Crystal Palace."

Whatever may be the opinion of the London critics, those of Madrid are clearly of opinion that Mme. Grisi's singing days ought to be over, and, as we lately recorded, have repaid her obstinate fidelity to her art by hissing her off the stage. Since that Mme. Grisi, determined to test the spirit of the Spanish people to the utmost, has published the following document: "I am accused of having failed in respect to the public. This accusation afflicts me so much, that I will endeavour to prove the contrary. In my artistic career I have always had the happiness to appreciate and to feel profoundly the kind receptions which I have obtained in all the theatres in which I have sung. I therefore accepted with pleasure an engagement at the Theatre Royal at Madrid, being assured of being able to fulfil my engagement, and counting on the indulgence of the public. Under these circumstances I believed that I should find, on my first appearance on the stage, the indulgence which the chivalrous Spanish nation accords to all artists; but my surprise was great when, before having heard me, a small portion of the public manifested discontent during the first act. I frankly confess that these facts caused me pain, and that, without the protection

of the rest of the public, I should not have been able to terminate the representation. I therefore supplicate the public to accord me the grace of pardoning me for what I may have done in the situation in which I found myself. Far be from me the idea of reproaching the Madrid public, whom I have always appreciated, and if I had been permitted to speak I should have said, 'Gentlemen, Listen to me with indulgence, and if after having sung I have not the happiness to please you, I will respect your decision, and will put an end to my engagement.' I could not certainly have continued to sing before a public whose approbation I had not obtained. Accomplishing a sacred duty, I lay this just manifesto before the public, feeling certain that it will appreciate it for what it is worth; and I promise to obtain from the public my justification. Its servant, GIULIA GRISI.'—After the publication of this "manifesto," Mme. Grisi appeared anew in "Norma," but she encountered great opposition, and at length, bursting into tears, she left the stage. It has been subsequently announced that the performances of Mme. Grisi and M. Mario would not continue.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S.—We can recommend our readers to visit the gallery in Baker-street known under the superscription of "Madame Tussaud's," and inspect the recent arrangements which have been made for the winter season. No expense has been spared, and what is better, that expense has been judiciously directed. There are many novelties, amongst the last and best of which is a full-length effigy of a man to whom all honour is due for his services in India during the recent military revolt. It is that of Sir John Lawrence, who with General Campbell and General Havelock forms a very interesting and excellent group. The reputation of the artist by whom this effigy was modelled will be secured by this his most recent work. It is faithful in expression, character, and outline. Sir John wears the blue embroidered coat in which official civilians appear on state occasions, and contrasts pictorially with his scarlet-clothed military associates.

SCIENCE AND INVENTIONS.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS.

ENTOMOLOGICAL RARITY.—About two months ago Mr. H. Chapman, of St. Helen's-square, York, says the *Yorkshire Gazette*, was fortunate enough to procure four of the larvae or caterpillars of the rare insect known as the "Death's-head hawk-moth," which he placed in a box suitable for their transformation—first, into the chrysalis state, and then to the fully-developed insect. After a day or two all four disappeared for that purpose, and on Tuesday last one of them appeared again in its perfect state, a large and beautiful moth, the body measuring 2½ inches, the expansion of the wings being 4½ inches. On the following day a second made its appearance, equally fine. This interesting moth is the largest in the country, and, with one exception, the largest in Europe, and is remarkable from the circumstance of its having on the thorax a tolerably well-defined representation of a death's head, and having the power of emitting a mournful sound. These peculiarities have conspired to render it an object of alarm to the ignorant and superstitious. Mr. Chapman considers himself extremely fortunate in procuring two fine specimens out of four larvae, as with this species it frequently happens that they die before completing the wonderful transformation. Since this was written we understand that a third moth has made its appearance, and it is as large as the other two.

RETIREMENT OF SIR JAMES CLARK.—The retirement of Sir James Clark from his office of personal physician in daily attendance on the Queen is an event of sufficient importance in the Court circle to demand a passing notice. Sir James was appointed physician in ordinary to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, on the death of Dr. Matou, some twenty-seven years ago, and has therefore had charge of the health of the Queen from her girlhood. Since her Majesty's accession Sir James has been in daily attendance, accompanying the Court to Windsor, Osborne, and Balmoral, and regularly travelling with her Majesty in her trips to Ireland, Belgium, France, and Prussia, and also when taking her marine excursions in the Royal yacht. Although at the births of the Royal children the professional assistance of Dr. Locock was called in, yet the Queen was always considered to be in the care of her own personal physician up to the moment when Dr. Locock's professional services were indispensable, and Sir James always signed the official bulletins first. In addition to his post in the household of the Queen, Sir James was also attached to that of the Prince Consort and the Duchess of Kent, and has had the sole medical direction of the health of the Royal children. The loss, therefore, of so old and confidential a family medical adviser is much felt by the Royal family; but some few years ago Sir James had a severe attack of illness, and advancing age has induced him to retire from his constant daily attendance at the Palace. Sir James Clark is succeeded in his important duties by Dr. Baly, who has been gradually initiated in the routine of his duties by the retiring baronet. For this purpose Dr. Baly was in attendance at Osborne this summer, and again joined the suite of her Majesty at Balmoral, where Sir James was also on duty, and the new physician in ordinary may be considered to have entered on the duties and responsibilities of his office in attending her Majesty on her return journey from Balmoral to Holyrood, Penrhyn Castle, and Windsor Castle.—*Court Journal*.—[Since the appearance of the above, it has been contradicted with an air of some authority.—ED. CRITIC.]

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—From a return just published of the receipts and expenditure of the above institution from Midsummer-day, 1858, to Midsummer-day, 1859, it appears that the former amounted to 19,697l. 7s. 5d., derived from the following sources, viz.: court of examiners, 16,655l. 5s.; fellowship, 1449l.; *ad eundem* admission to membership, 88l.; certificate of membership, 5l. 5s.; midwifery examinations, 365l. 8s.; admission to council, 21l.; sale of lists of members, catalogues, &c., 20l. 13s. 9d.; and dividends on investments in Government securities, 1092l. 15s. 8d. The disbursements amounted to 20,994l. 7s., divided under various heads, including a deposit of 850l. on the purchase of a large house adjoining the college. From a summary of the whole it appears that the incidental income of the college was 18,604l. 11s. 9d., and the incidental expenditure 17,305l. 12s. 2d. The permanent income of the college was only 1092l. 15s. 8d.; whereas the expenditure amounted to 3688l. 14s. 10d. From an analysis of the list of the college it appears there are at the present time 1226 fellows, of which number 233 have undergone the severe examinations, and 993 are honorary and elective fellows. Of members there are 13,000, making a total of fellows and members of 14,226; of this number 709 are licentiates in midwifery. It would be an interesting addition to the list to give the names of those gentlemen who have undergone the preliminary examination for the fellowship in classics, mathematics, and French, especially as no certificate is given to the candidates of the fact.

THE NEW COPPER OR BRONZE COINAGE.—It is known (says the *Manchester Guardian*) that the Government intend to issue a new coinage of a bronze alloy, to replace the existing copper coinage; and we now state that the arrangements have advanced so far that in Manchester there have been constructed the engines to drive the stamping presses to be used, and also the boilers needed for that purpose. The engines and boilers have been made by

Messrs. R. Ormerod and Son, of the St. George's Iron-works, Chester-road, Hulme. The latter have already been forwarded to their destination, and the former will follow next week. That destination is the works of Messrs. R. Heaton and Sons, of Birmingham, who have, we are told, executed all the copper coins struck for this country for many years, and who also successfully competed for the execution of the new French currency issued by Napoleon III. The pair of engines are upon an improved direct action principle, and of 50 horse-power; some patented arrangements of Mr. W. A. Johnson, who is connected with Messrs. Ormerod's establishment, being introduced. The frames are vertical instead of horizontal, it being supposed that strength and some other advantages are thus gained. The cylinders are of 20 inches diameter, the stroke being 4 feet. The fly-wheel has a diameter of 18 feet, and weighs 13 tons; and, the engines being intended to make from 36 to 40 revolutions a minute, the wheel will be speeded to 60 revolutions. The power will be given off from the axle, close to the fly-wheel, so that little or no checking strain should fall upon the engines. But as the metal to be used for the new coinage will be very much harder than copper, and as in striking coins from the latter metal the resistance will sometimes check, and even stop, the machinery, there have been special appliances added to these engines, which, by means of levers, will enable wheels to be slipped and the engines in effect thrown out of gear, while other levers will enable the working arrangement to be gradually and easily restored. The engines are beautifully finished. The two boilers are each 25ft. long and 5ft. 6in. diameter; with a 2ft. 9in. circular flue, fitted for firing at each end, so as to secure more rapid production of steam, and an almost complete burning of smoke. The steam pressure is to be 60lb. It is estimated that two or three years, at least, will be needed for getting in and replacing the existing copper coinage.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL ASSOCIATION.—Friday, the 21st, being the anniversary meeting of this association, the members dined at Jude's Hotel, at six o'clock. The chair was taken by Professor Harvey, president, and among the company present was Captain M. Clintock, R.N. After dinner the members adjourned to the rooms of the association, when the chair was taken by the president. Dr. E. Percival Wright, F.L.S., read the report of the council, congratulating the association on its success last session. The papers read during the session were twenty-nine in number, of which nineteen were on zoological and ten on botanical subjects, and, besides containing many important discoveries in anatomy, physiology, and development, and valuable contributions to the study of geographical distribution, recorded the existence of no less than thirty new species, all of which have been illustrated in Part 2 of the *Proceedings*, or are in process of illustration in Part 3. At the close of the last session Part 2 of the *Proceedings*, dated July 1859, was published and duly forwarded to the members. It contained 110 pages, ten lithographic plates, and four woodcuts; also appendices, with list of members, catalogues of foreign periodicals in our library, &c. Part 3, concluding Vol. I., and containing the proceedings to the June meeting in 1859, will, it is hoped, be laid on the table before the next December meeting, and will contain twelve plates, of which two will be coloured. It has been decided that for the present but one part of the *Proceedings* will be published each year; so that, after the publication of Part 3, the date of Vol. II., Part 1, will be November 1860. Reference was then made to the decease of R. M. Dermott, A.M., M.B., an ordinary member of high collegiate distinction, and of William Bean, of Scarborough, a corresponding member, well known as an ardent collector of British marine zoology. There had been a clear gain of twenty-seven members during the session. Several botanical works in progress were referred to. The council had forwarded to her Majesty's Government in the course of last spring, and in conjunction with the Royal and Linnean Societies in London, a very strong recommendation that her Majesty's Government would see fit to grant a pension from the Literary Fund to assist a most distinguished English corresponding member, whose fortune had been unexpectedly lost in the failure of the Newcastle Bank. The report having been adopted, as well as the treasurer and librarian's reports, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers for the year; after which the president gave his address, and the members adjourned to the third Friday in November.

THE FRANKLIN CREWS.—Mr. W. Parker Snow has addressed the following letter to the papers, advocating the adventure of another expedition, after possibly surviving members of the Franklin crews: "The experience of Captain M. Clintock is so great in all Arctic matters that, on such account alone, and saving nothing of my sincere esteem for him, I should hardly venture to publicly put forward any opinion different to his. Indeed, to do so is more than likely to get my remarks considered in a way not perhaps complimentary to myself. But the cause of our long-lost countrymen is as powerful within me now as it has been for years past; and, though my experience has not been equal to that of Captain M. Clintock's in the Arctic service, it has been equal to most men, and surpassing many men, in a knowledge of mankind in a wild life abroad, and in circumstances where compelled to depend upon self alone. Hence I do still most earnestly plead for those of the crews of the *Erabus* and *Terror* whom I firmly believe to be yet alive among the Esquimaux. In the name, then, of the friends and relatives of Sir John Franklin's petty officers and seamen, as yet unaccounted for, I beg your insertion of this letter in their behalf. Perhaps you may differ from my view of the question; but consider how very many times strong opinions have been given by eminent men that nothing more than what was discovered in 1850 would ever be heard of the lost expedition. Consider how many said that they went everywhere but there where it appears they did go; and, also, how many more utterly repudiated the locality where it is now proved they could have been found. Therefore, I again and again urge the extreme probability that some may yet be found alive; and assuredly that stronger facts than any we yet have may be discovered respecting them. My arguments at present would be too long to trouble you with. I have long studied this question, and have carefully analysed the whole of the blue-books upon the subject. Briefly, however, let me say that it is well known one or two of that lost crew were inclined to a life among the Esquimaux. I have a strong idea where they may be found. I have always had the same idea; and the various rumours obtained through the wild tribes on the coast of continental America all refer to something corroborating the view I take. I believe the whole party never would, and never did, attempt the "barren grounds" on the Great Fish River. A number of persons seeking subsistence would not find it; a few might. But a number of persons going thither with supplies from a settlement could get along. Thus I consider that very speedily after reaching the south part of King William's Island they divided into three, and perhaps four, detachments—one to Back's River, and so cross to inhabited territories; a second westward, and thus accounting for those strange statements most of us are familiar with; a third eastward; while a fourth may have gone back to the ships, or tried to do so. As for the natives and their information, I have never yet found a wild man give the real truth when his interest or his fear leads him to the instinct of self-preservation in hiding what may possibly, as he thinks, hurt him. All experience of the Esquimaux tells us that such is particularly so with them. Then, too, we know they are superstitious (instance the accounts of all voyagers); hence much of what now seems a mystery in their not visiting certain places. But a still more prominent fact strikes me. It is this: all who

have been met by Captain M'Clintock, Dr. Rae, or Mr. Anderson, refer to some other tribe who had been with or seen our lost friends. They themselves, personally, were wholly ignorant. But where is that other tribe? Rather, does it exist; and is it not probable they have all a more correct knowledge about the matter than they choose to say? As to food for our countrymen, it must not be forgotten that salmon is there in abundance, and the places where it could be obtained were well known to Mr. Blanky (the ice-master of the *Erebus*) and to others. Mr. Anderson's expedition was, I am informed, too poorly equipped to do what could now be done by a people's expedition if sent out. I am preparing a plan to submit to all calm-thinking and humane minds. This I will shortly lay before the public. Meanwhile I once more urge the plea I now put forward, and with a hope that my voice may not altogether be in vain. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, W. PARKER SNOW.—St. John's-hill, New Wandsworth, Oct. 22."

CAPTAIN M'CLINTOCK.—The public attention now directed towards this gallant officer renders the following biographical sketch of him, which has lately appeared in the columns of the *Globe*, anything but out of place:—"F. Leopold M'Clintock was born in the town of Dundalk in the year 1820, and is the second son of the late Mr. Henry M'Clintock. He entered her Majesty's navy in 1831, before he had completed his twelfth year, and obtained his lieutenancy in 1845, upon the strong recommendation of Sir Charles Hotham, in consequence of distinguished conduct during the operations under this officer for the recovery of his Majesty's ship *Gorgon*, when stranded at Monte Video. As lieutenant he served for two years in the *Frolic*, then in the Pacific, and was paid off in the latter end of 1847. Both before and after obtaining his lieutenancy he studied with great assiduity and success at the Royal Naval College, Portsmouth, and was highly commended for his proficiency in the different branches of science there taught, and especially in steam navigation. In the spring of 1849 fears began to arise for the safety of Sir J. Franklin, and H.M. ships *Enterprise* and *Investigator* were sent out in search of him. The command of this expedition was entrusted to Sir James Ross, and to his ship M'Clintock was appointed a lieutenant. In each of the three great expeditions equipped and sent out by the British Government in search of the *Erebus* and *Terror* Captain M'Clintock took an active and prominent part, distinguishing himself by the attention he bestowed to the subject of pedestrian exploration, and especially by the extraordinary long journeys which he performed. In 1849 he accompanied Sir James Ross in a journey along the north-west shore of North Somerset, when they travelled on foot 500 miles, and were absent from their ship 40 days. Again, in 1851, when attached to the expedition under Captain Austin, Captain M'Clintock was able to make a much more extended journey, the distance actually travelled being upwards of 900 miles, and the time occupied therein 80 days. The year 1853 found M'Clintock at Melville Island in command of her Majesty's steamer *Intrepid*, one of the four ships forming the searching expedition under the command of Sir Edward Belcher. Having given a great deal of consideration to the whole subject of sledge travelling, M'Clintock was enabled to improve upon what had hitherto been done. From the very first he appears to have recognised the great importance of this mode of exploration in these regions, and to have availed himself of every means to bring it to perfection. The despatches of Captain Austin testify to this; and we have the authority of Captain Osborn for asserting that 'every part of the sledge scheme carried out by Sir E. Belcher's expedition was grounded entirely on Lieut. M'Clintock's original ideas.' (M'Clintock's 'Discovery of North-West Passage.') The immense advantages that have been derived from this mode of search alone are best shown by the fact that the different parties despatched from the various expeditions have travelled upwards of 2400 miles; whilst by the same means several thousand miles of new coast line have been surveyed and laid down on the charts. In his sledge journey of this year (1853), Captain M'Clintock surpassed not only his former feats, but also those of every other competitor, accomplishing on foot the extraordinary distance of 1400 statute miles in one period of 105 days. A journey of the same length, and under similar circumstances, had never previously been performed, and probably will never be repeated. It was these achievements, the result of skilful calculation, deliberate courage, and indomitable perseverance, that obtained for him the successive steps of commander and captain. By the recent voyage of the *Fox*, however, M'Clintock has earned a conspicuous place in the list of Arctic heroes. This last expedition has accomplished that which the two greatest of maritime nations had in vain previously attempted—it has done what eleven expeditions had failed to do. Captain M'Clintock has at length solved 'the great Franklin mystery.' A solitary ship—a mere yacht, in fact, of about 200 tons burden—fitted out from private resources and manned by a crew of twenty men and four officers, formed the entire expedition. In the first attempt of the *Fox* to cross Baffin's Bay, one of those serious disasters incidental to Polar navigation occurred, such as would have deterred any man of ordinary resolution from prosecuting the search. The *Fox* got helplessly beset in the main pack of ice, and for eight months (viz., from 18th of August to 25th of April) she was locked in its relentless grasp. At the end of this period the pack had drifted 1200 miles in a southerly direction, and the *Fox* was liberated by a sudden breaking up of the ice, which for many leagues surrounded her in every direction. We need not here recapitulate the subsequent history of the expedition, as this is fresh in the public mind. We may take occasion, however, to say, that whilst the main object of the search was kept ever prominently in view, still no opportunity of advancing the cause of science was left unimproved. A large amount of observations relating to astronomy, terrestrial magnetism, tides and currents, the barometer, electric and other conditions of the atmosphere, &c., have been accurately recorded; and a vast number of specimens illustrative of the geology as well as the fauna and flora of this region of the earth have been carefully preserved, to enrich our national museum and extend our knowledge of natural history. Although Captain M'Clintock has seen more Arctic service than perhaps any other officer in her Majesty's navy, having spent seven winters within the Arctic circle, and travelled on foot upwards of 3500 miles in his various exploring journeys, his health, we understand, has not in any way suffered. We are sure that every one will cordially unite with us in the hope that he may long be spared to his country, and that the British nation may long enjoy the services of one who has proved himself to be endowed with so many rare qualities of mind and body." A committee, composed of the most distinguished noblemen and gentlemen, professional and otherwise, is in course of formation in Dublin, with a view to present some appropriate testimonial to Captain M'Clintock, R.N. Already a number have promptly enlisted themselves in this most praiseworthy undertaking. The Lord Mayor has given the use of the Mansion House for the purpose of the committee, and a general meeting will shortly be convened to carry out this excellent intention.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON. Geological Society. 1. "On the Passage-beds between the Upper Silurian into the Old Red Sandstone, at Leilbury, Herefordshire." By the Rev. W. S. Symonds, F.G.S. 2. "On the Coal Formation at Auckland, New Zealand." By Henry Weeks, Esq. 2. "On the Geology of Vancouver's Island." By W. Bauerman, Esq.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL ITEMS.

CURIOUS MANUSCRIPT.—A very curious manuscript was presented to the Antiquarian Society of Yorkshire in 1818. It contains sundry rules to be observed by the household of Henry VIII., and enjoins the following singular particulars:—None of his Highness's attendants to steal any locks or keys, tables, forms, cupboards, or other furniture, out of noblemen's or gentlemen's houses where he goes to visit. No herald, minstrel, falconer, or other, to bring to the court any boy or rascal, nor to keep lads or rascals in court, to do their business for them. Master cooks not to supply such scullions as go about naked, nor lie all night on the ground before the kitchen fire. Dinner to be at ten, and supper at four. The Knight Marshall to take care that all such unthrifty and common women as followed the court be banished. The proper officers are, between six and seven o'clock every morning, to make the fire in, and straw, his Highness's privy chamber. Officers of his Highness's privy chamber to keep secret everything said or done, leaving hearkening and inquiring where the King is, or goes, be it early or late, without grudging, mumbling, or talking of the King's past-time, late or early going to bed, or any other matter. Coal only allowed to the King's, Queen's, and Lady Mary's chambers. The Queen's maids of honour to have a chet loaf, a manchet, a gallon of ale, and a chine of beef for their breakfasts. Among the fishes for the table is a porpoise, and if it is too big for a horse load, a further allowance is made to the purveyor. The manuscript ends with several proclamations. One is to take up and punish strong and mighty beggars, rascals, and vagabonds who hang about the court.

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES IN LONDON.—A correspondent corrects an error committed by a reviewer in the *Times*, in stating that "behind the London Coffee-house another monumental inscription, together with a female head in stone (the size of life), and the trunk and thighs of a statue of Hercules, dug up in 1806, are since destroyed." This is not so. These interesting relics are still in existence, carefully protected by iron fencing, and may be seen by any one at any time gratuitously.

ST. ANDREW'S.—DISCOVERY OF A TOMB.—The *Fifeshire Journal* states that extensive excavations have been going on during the course of last week at Law Head, where a considerable number of urns have been brought up in fine preservation.

LITERARY NEWS.

THIS WEEK, MR. S. C. HALL has been delivering his admirable lectures on "The Authors of the Age" both at Manchester and Sheffield, and in each case to a crowded audience.

Lord Brougham had arranged to preside at the annual meeting of the Northern Union of Mechanics' Institutes in Newcastle on Thursday, but Mr. Joseph Cowen, jun., received a letter in which his Lordship expressed his inability to be present before yesterday (Friday), the 28th inst. The meeting was therefore held on Friday.

The *Standard* says: "The announcement of a work under the title of 'Adam Bede, Jun.: a Sequel,' will probably lead to the settlement of this much-controverted question. It will appear, we believe, that in relation to a recent correspondence there has been a mistake of identity in the alleged author, who was said to be resident in one of the midland counties."

On Tuesday evening a highly interesting lecture on the "Life and Labours of George Stephenson" was delivered at the Greenwich Literary Institution, by C. Wykeham Martin, Esq., formerly M.P. for West Kent. The lecturer, after detailing the opposition encountered by Stephenson, who was regarded as an enthusiast, concluded by referring to the history, progress, and results of the railway system.

Mr. Charles Dickens gave a reading from the "Christmas Carol" and the "Pickwick Papers," at the Town Hall, Oxford, on Monday evening. The hall was crowded, amongst those present being his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and suite, the Rev. the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Jeune), Dr. Daubeny, &c. Mr. Dickens was much applauded, and his Royal Highness, at the finish of the entertainment, was graciously pleased to express his satisfaction at the pleasure he had experienced from the reading.

We are happy to learn that the evening classes at King's College, Somerset House, have opened with great success. The number of students that have already joined in the first two days of the winter course has reached 339, and many more have still to be entered. The mathematical staff has just been strengthened by the accession of Mr. Arthur Cayley, Senior Wrangler in 1842. This gentleman received his own education at King's College, and has now most kindly offered to give to the students of the evening classes, on two evenings in the week, the benefit of his great mathematical powers. It has also been found necessary to divide into two parts the class for those who are beginning the study of Greek, and to add the Rev. Walter Howas to the three lecturers who have already undertaken to teach that language.

The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford has received from "A non-resident member of the University, much attached to her interests," the sum of 50*l.* for a prize to be awarded to the writer of the best English poem on "The Life, the Character, and the Death of the heroic seaman Sir John Franklin, with special reference to the Time, Place, and Discovery of his Death." The Poem to be in rhymed verse; to be recited during the meeting of the British Association, at the time and in the place which the Vice-Chancellor may appoint. All members of the University whatsoever to be at liberty to compete for the prize. The compositions to be sent to the Registrar of the University on or before the 1st of June, 1860; the usual course for concealing the name of the writer and distinguishing the compositions being followed. The judges to be the Vice-Chancellor, the Dean of Christ Church, and a third person to be named by them.

On Tuesday evening Mr. William Ellis delivered a lecture in the theatre of the South Kensington Museum, on the different ways to obtain possession of wealth—which to be encouraged, and which to be discouraged, and why; the protection to property, and the respect for property; precautions for guarding against a diminution of the store of wealth, and arrangements for promoting its increase; the function of capital; nature of the engagements between capitalists and labourers, employers and employed, masters and servants, and between capitalists and capitalists. During the lecture Mr. Ellis dwelt on the importance of parents imbuing their children with proper notions of economy, that they might when they grew up understand what their duty was, and what temptations to avoid. He pointed out in a very clear manner the functions of capital, as well as what was necessary for its preservation and increase, and what its relations were as regarded the labour it employed.

The distributions of the titles and certificates awarded to the successful candidates at the examination held in June last took place on Tuesday at Birmingham. The Rev. Dr. Temple, head master of Rugby School, distributed the prizes; and in doing so he said that he had recently had the opportunity of comparing the examination of this and the previous year, and he found that, although the number of competitors was not so great, the work done was

decidedly better than in the previous year, particularly in the preliminary examinations. Upon the whole the competitors had very fairly acquitted themselves, and he said that in no instance was there any necessity for lowering the standard of the first class. The average work in most of the classes was rather higher than last year, except in mathematics. For such fluctuation they must be prepared; there would be one year a pretty good show, and the next would not be up to the mark. The object of the University in conferring the title of Associate of Arts upon the seniors was, as it were, to hold out the right hand of fellowship to all who showed they appreciated the value of learning. He looked upon Birmingham as the intellectual centre of these examinations; and from whatever class of society pupils might spring, if they showed evidence of sound and solid attainments the University of Oxford held out the right hand of fellowship, and acknowledged them as brethren in the great republic of learning. In the course of the distribution of the prizes Dr. Temple admonished the recipients of the prizes in reference to perseverance in their course of study. He alluded to the Preparatory School at Birmingham, under the head-mastership of Dr. Badham, as one which had taken so many prizes in this examination as to exercise an overwhelming influence in this distribution. The majority of the honours awarded were to pupils from this school; but they were also gained by the pupils from King Edward's School, Birmingham; Shireland-hall School, Smethwick; and the pupils of schools at Coventry, Leicester, Leamington, &c.

Mr. William Howitt writes to Mr. Charles Dickens, controverting the suggestion of a writer in *All the Year Round*, who said that ghosts were "thoughts." Mr. Howitt makes several assertions as to "haunted houses and ghosts": "Poor —, the brewer, has a house at Cheshunt, now, in consequence, shut up, and presenting a most ghastly aspect, out of which every tenant, for these twenty years or more, has been driven by one of those queer, rampant, gallivanting thoughts—Mrs. Charles Kean's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, among the rest. Mr. Proctor, of Willington, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, whose 'haunted house' I once visited, has been permanently driven out of it by one of these troublesome thoughts. . . . Whoever sets himself to resolve all the ghosts that have appeared in this blessed world, from Job's apparition, which made his hair stand on end, or Brutus's evil genius, down to that of Captain Wheatcroft, which, the other day, compelled the War-office to correct the date of his death before Lucknow in the official return, into thought-suggestions, will leave Don Quixote and his windmills amazingly far behind. Are you aware that there has existed for years a society, jocularly called the Ghost Club, consisting of a number of Cambridge men who have taken high honours there, and now hold high posts in this work-a-day world, 'cute fellows and much considered, whose object has been thoroughly to sift this question of apparitions, and to test the cases produced by every test of logical and metaphysical inquiry, by the principles of the severest legal and historical evidence; and that, after examining a vast number of such statements, the conclusion they have come to is, that 'the ghosts have it.' As the correspondence was a merely private and friendly one, we do not feel ourselves at liberty to publish Mr. Dickens's answer, in which he assures Mr. Howitt that the cases given in *All the Year Round* were genuine cases, in no degree altered or garnished; that he has heard the narrator relate them for years as perfectly true; and what is more, that the narrator has himself lived in a famous 'haunted house' in Kent, which is shut up now, or was the other day. That he himself has always taken a great interest in these matters, but requires evidence such as he has not yet met with; and that when he 'thinks of the amount of misery and injustice that constantly obtains in this world, which a word from the departed dead person in question could set right, he would not believe—could not believe—in the War-office Ghost without overwhelming evidence.'

It is said that at Kilmarnock several revivalists, conscience-stricken for having been so wicked as to indulge in the reading of Burns's Poems and Shakespeare's Plays, have committed their copies of these works to the flames.

At a meeting of the Independent Union connected with the Glasgow University, held on Monday night, it was unanimously resolved to nominate Lord Elgin as Lord Rector of the University at the ensuing election.

The Philosophic Institution of Edinburgh will commence its new session on the 4th of November, when Professor Aytoun will deliver an inaugural address on "The Popular Traditions and Poetry of the North of Europe."

The *Scotsman* says that the Rev. Dr. Esdaile having invited a few of those interested in the proposed establishment of a college for educating the daughters of ministers of the Church of Scotland, and the professors in the Scottish Universities, to confer together in Edinburgh on Friday last, the meeting was attended by the Rev. Drs. Hunter, Grant, Robertson, Stevenson, and Nisbet; Professors Bennett and Craufurd; the Rev. Messrs. Gray, Weir, Adamson, and Esdaile (secretary). The prospects of the institution having been explained by Mr. Esdaile, it was unanimously agreed that these were such as to justify a confident hope of success, and render it necessary that the draft of the proposed constitution of the college should be prepared; and that it would be of advantage that a brief statement of the nature and advantages of the scheme should be prepared in such a form as might, either by deputation or otherwise, be presented to Presbyteries and the public. Drs. Grant, Robertson, and Bennett, and Mr. Esdaile, were requested to prepare these documents before the 22nd November, in order that they may be submitted to the consideration of a meeting of subscribers, which Mr. Esdaile was directed to intimate will be held on that day in the offices of the church, at two o'clock p.m. The institution, we are glad to say, is rapidly approaching completion.

Professor Monier Williams addresses an interesting correspondence to the *Times* respecting the moot question as to the use of the Roman alphabet in India: "Those of your readers who were interested in the discussion which took place in your paper not many months since on the subject of the introduction of the Roman alphabet into India, will be glad to hear that the movement is now making rapid progress in the Madras Presidency. Dr. Caldwell, the well-known author of the 'Dravidian Comparative Grammar,' has become a complete convert to the feasibility of the scheme. An able pamphlet from his pen, in the form of a letter to Sir Charles Trevelyan, advocating the substitution of our simple system of writing for the complicated scratches which now block the path of knowledge in India, is at this moment exciting great interest among learned natives at Madras. The truth is that the Hindoos, especially the Tamil race, in the south, are a shrewd people, keenly alive to the advantage of adopting our European improvements and inventions. They are now beginning to perceive that the Roman character, as used by us, is adapted to the expression of all their languages, and that they can be no losers, and perhaps great gainers, by giving it a fair trial. It was thought by many that the educated Mahomedans would feel themselves aggrieved by the movement. That this is a mistaken idea is proved by a letter which has lately been addressed to the editor of a Madras paper by a learned Moslem, whose character (as I am assured by Sir Charles Trevelyan) 'is highly respected at Madras.' As Indian affairs are now forcing themselves upon the attention of the British public, you may think the letter worthy of a place in your columns. I therefore enclose it, and have the honour, &c., MONIER WILLIAMS.—Cheltenham, Oct. 18."—"Sir,—As the question of the propriety of adopting Roman characters for Indian languages has become the subject of consideration in this quarter of the world, I beg

for a small space in your valuable and widely-circulated journal to make a few remarks on the subject. I have been for some time past thinking upon the new system of teaching native languages, and have at last come to the conclusion that the adoption of one and the same alphabet for all languages of India is highly desirable, and will insure great facility to learning. The Roman characters are best adapted for this purpose, as they are, with the addition of some particular marks, capable of being representatives of any sound in any language. It is a fact asserted by all, whether they be the advocates of the new system or otherwise, that a man, being a public servant or private individual, cannot deal well with the natives unless he has acquired a sufficient knowledge of their language; and I believe there is not a single individual who could deny the fact. Now, the question arises, 'Can native languages be placed within easy reach of those who attempt to learn them?' The difficulties which are to be met with in studying a native language are so well known to all, that they require no explanation. If a person, after surpassing all these difficulties, and after hard study of several years, make himself familiar with one of the native languages, it will enable him to transact business in a limited locality, and with a particular people alone. If he happens subsequently to be in a district where the language in which he made himself conversant is not the language of the district, his labour of several years is totally lost, and the language, which he learned with much difficulty and great cost, lies utterly useless, and can give him no assistance in learning the language of his new district. He is then obliged either to commence the alphabet and study the language of his new district under all the difficulties of a foreign tongue, or to be content with being a perfect stranger in the country, without the least means of personally communicating with the people; his ignorance of the language will, of course, subject him to a great many disadvantages. If, on the contrary, one and the same alphabet be used for all the native languages of India, the difficulty so much complained of will be greatly lessened, if not totally removed. Because, when a man learns one language in the new alphabet (the Roman characters), he can learn the other languages with greater ease, inasmuch as a man of ordinary talents can learn them without the aid of a teacher or Munshi. He will be able with a little attention to pronounce the words correctly; and as for the meaning, a dictionary and translations will supply the office of a teacher. I have seen many youths attending native schools for years and years, and yet they are not able to read correctly half a page or so from a book which they never read before. This is not the case with boys alone; even men, who have acquired a thorough knowledge of native languages, cannot read at first sight with correctness and fluency from any book or paper which they have never seen before. This proves that the native languages are written in letters quite imperfect, obscure, and ambiguous in themselves; and consequently natives as well as Europeans experience great difficulty in learning them. The imperfection or defect lies only in the alphabet or letters, the first principles of the language; the words composed of those letters being incapable of being read at first sight. The advantage of adopting the Roman characters as the universal and common alphabet for all the native languages of India is beyond question very great. Persian and Hindustani being my native languages, I will take them as the grounds of my discussion, and will proceed to show how imperfect their present alphabet is. The present alphabet of these languages is, in the first place, void of vowels; and the absence of capital letters and the want of punctuation serve to increase the difficulty. Every sensible mind is well aware, at least of the difficulty, if not of the impossibility, of pronouncing a word (or, properly speaking, a nonsensical assemblage of letters) composed of mere consonants. For instance, they write *Be* and *Sin*, which is equivalent in English to B and S or Bs, and the reader is to supply the vowel left out; if he be a beginner, he must ask his teacher to tell him what vowel is to be added to make it a word; and then he is told it is 'Zabar,' or 'A,' after B, which makes it *Bas*. Now it is made a word, and is capable of being read at first sight, even by a boy who has just learned his alphabet. I humbly and respectfully ask those who are against the introduction of the Roman characters in the Indian language whether 'Bs' or 'Bas' most readily expresses the sound intended, and which of the two is defective in formation? I will give here a specimen of Hindustani as it is written in its present alphabet, from which every impartial person can easily judge how great the difficulty is in reading that language in its proper character:

The Present Mode of writing Hindustani in its own Alphabet.

atny khny pr mskrakr frmay bha kvy
hw aay daralsh' a my n rkhw lb bhla chuga
hwga lb as ky ahwal ky prsh ky jayky
khwy ny kha agr apny dst khas sy glab as
pr chirkky awr ez b an sy kehni frmay tw as
kw apnyjy ny ka bhrrwa b ndhy na amy dy
bry chyz hy dny a bamyd qaym hy.

The New Mode of writing Hindustani in Roman Characters.

Itne kahne par, muskurdkar farmadya,
'bhalai: kof ho, ise dar-ush-shila men rak-
ho! Jab bhalai changzi hogi, tab us ka
ahwal ki puraisi ki jaege.' Khoje ne kaha,
'agar apne dast-i-khas se gulab us par
chirkaye, aur zabani se kuch farmaye, to
us ko apne jine ki bharos bandhe. Na
ummed! buri chiz hai; danyai bad-ummed
qaim hai.'

With so imperfect and obscure an alphabet, could any one reasonably be expected to learn the language without working hard at it for several years? And this is the principal cause of many natives being totally illiterate. My long experience as a Munshi, translator, and interpreter, enables me safely to mention that if a Mahomedan boy be taught to read Hindustani in Roman characters, he will be able within a couple of months to read any book in that language with tolerable ease and fluency; and he may likely beat any boy who has been reading Hindustani in its old alphabet for upwards of a year. The truth of my statement can be proved by a trial. I take leave of you and of your readers for the present, and remain, Sir, your and their most obedient servant, MR. GULAM ALI.—Madras, Aug. 30.

We see by an announcement that a new paper, the *English Mail*, is being projected for circulation throughout Australia and New Zealand. To use its own words, "It is intended not only to supply colonists with a clear and condensed summary of all the general news of the month—foreign, commercial, and domestic—but also to be an 'echo' (as it were) of public opinion on all matters of interest relating to Australasia as daily expressed in the mother country. Such a paper, conducted on such principles, cannot fail to be a great boon to our great southern colonies."

The *Boston Courier*, giving an account of some amenities which have lately passed between the journalists of New York, says: "The companion of Mr. McCabe, the Tammany Hall 'Democrat,' who so brutally assailed the editor of the *New York News*, sends the following note to that journal: 'Broadway, N. Y., Sept. 22, 1859.—To the Surviving Editor of the *New York Daily News*.—I accompanied my friend, Mr. McCabe, to your office, and remained until your co-editor had been properly punished. Had the rest of you had courage to remain, a few well-directed blows would have brought you to your senses too. We had the pleasure to know that the conductors of the ablest journal in the city—the *Journal of Commerce*—approve our course.—Henry Murphy.' 'This Tammany fellow,' says the *News*, 'confesses to a combination, and in that combination implicates the conductors of the *Journal of Commerce*, for he declares that they knew and approved of their brutality. Whether the favourite and favoured journal of these fellows will see fit to repudiate or accept the odious imputation, we know not.' Upon this, the *Journal of Commerce* replies as follows: 'The *Daily News* departs from its usual courteous course in publishing a very un-

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charitable suspicion about the *Journal of Commerce*, without previously taking any steps to inform itself of the truth thereof. Had the editors of the *News* done so, we could have given them a positive assurance that the statement of Mr. Henry Murphy (whom we do not know and never heard of), implicating us in an approval of the recent brutal assault on Mr. Thompson, is entirely unfounded. The *News* must be well persuaded that nothing has ever been said or written on which such an unkind charge could by any inference be based. The same Murphy has also addressed a note to the editors of the *New York Express*, hinting that he intends to beat them as he beat, or assisted to beat, the *News* editor. To this threat the *Express* men reply that their office hours are from seven a.m. to three a.m., and that they are always ready."

M. de Villemessant, principal proprietor and editor of the *Figaro*, brought an action before the Tribunal of Commerce against M. Villemot, the well-known writer, to obtain from him 10,000*fr.* for the non-execution of an agreement. He stated that in 1858, having need of repose, he resolved to retire from the responsible management (*gérance*) and editorship of the *Figaro*, and he accordingly engaged M. Villemot and M. Jouvin to replace him in the management, on condition of receiving each 3000*fr.* a year, and, in addition, he engaged Villemot to write every week an article of Paris gossip for 14,000*fr.* a year. Under the management of the two gentlemen the *Figaro* did not go on well, and accordingly, by mutual agreement, they in October retired, and he replaced them. It was then agreed that M. Villemot should receive 20,000*fr.*, and should besides write an article every week for the *Figaro*, from the 1st November 1858 to the 1st November 1859, for 100*fr.* a week. The 20,000*fr.* were paid, but Villemot only supplied a few articles. Villemessant pressed him to fulfil his contract, but in vain; and he therefore brought the action for 10,000*fr.*—he, from moderation, fixing that sum as a sufficient indemnity. The answer to the action, on behalf of M. Villemot, was that he wrote for the *Figaro* on its first appearance at 150*fr.* a month, and that his articles contributed greatly to its success. He afterwards obtained an appointment on the *Indépendance Belge* to write Paris gossip, at 15,000*fr.* a year. In 1858 M. de Villemessant having by his turbulent character endangered the *Figaro*, and seeing that he had committed a great mistake in allowing Villemot to leave him, offered him the engagement of 17,000*fr.* which had been mentioned, and he (Villemot) committed the imprudent act of leaving the *Indépendance* to accept it. When that engagement ceased by mutual consent, De Villemessant, thinking that he deserved recompense for the sacrifice he had made, offered him 20,000*fr.*, and at the same time, as he had stated, required him to write fifty-two articles. But Villemot denied that, as alleged, he had undertaken to supply those articles within a year; he had, on the contrary, he said, stipulated that he should be allowed to supply them as he pleased. Besides this, after he had written half a dozen articles, he had met De Villemessant on the Boulevard, and the latter had said to him, "Villemot, your articles are not quite the thing; you have lost the knack of writing them smartly; and if the work does not suit you, I will be a good fellow, and will relieve you from it!" Villemot answered, "I am neither pleased nor displeased at what you say, but it is certain that I can have no pleasure in writing, if you have no pleasure in reading my articles." On that they parted, and Villemot thought that he was required to write no more—a conviction in which he was confirmed by the engagement of another writer, M. Paul d'Ivoy, to write the Paris gossip. Such were the facts; but M. Villemot did not call on the tribunal to decide the case on its merits, inasmuch as he had a technical objection to make, which was, that, though his first arrangement with De Villemessant was of a commercial character, the second was not, and therefore the tribunal had no jurisdiction in the matter. The tribunal held that the objection was fatal, and dismissed the case, ordering M. de Villemessant to pay the costs.

The *Opinione* of Turin says: "M. Passerini has written to Baron Ricasoli, Minister of the Interior, to announce that he has discovered in the government archives at Florence a volume of letters of Machiavelli in the handwriting of Senator Bertolini, and collected by him for publication. This copy, which was amongst documents lately presented to the archives by the Marquis Bertolini Carregas, will compensate the loss of a great number of autograph documents of Machiavelli which have been carried abroad during the last sixty years."

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